

## LOG AND MALWARE ANALYSIS

### Log Analysis

The failed login attempts clearly indicated a deliberate attack since the intervals of the logins are so short with the difference of only seconds. This shows an overwhelming login attempts within a brief time by a host 172:30:1:77 which is from the internet targeting the root and bob user. The screenshots below show the logs saved from this malicious activity.

i	Time	Event
>	11/14/24 11:17:01.000 PM	<pre>2011-04-26T17:17:01-06:00 baboon-srv CRON[6370]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0) 2011-04-26T17:17:01-06:00 baboon-srv CRON[6370]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root 2011-04-26T17:17:01.584857-06:00 cheetah-srv CRON[1630]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0) 2011-04-26T17:17:01.592041-06:00 cheetah-srv CRON[1630]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root 2011-04-26T18:17:01-06:00 baboon-srv CRON[6391]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0) 2011-04-26T18:17:01-06:00 baboon-srv CRON[6391]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root 2011-04-26T18:17:01.606315-06:00 cheetah-srv CRON[8072]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0) 2011-04-26T18:17:01.613757-06:00 cheetah-srv CRON[8072]: pam_unix(cron:session): session closed for user root 2011-04-26T18:47:48.230065-06:00 cheetah-srv login[642]: pam_unix(login:auth): check pass; user unknown 2011-04-26T18:47:48.230715-06:00 cheetah-srv login[642]: pam_unix(login:auth): authentication failure; logname=LOGIN uid=0 euid=0 tty=/dev/tty2 ruser= rhost= 2011-04-26T18:47:50.988036-06:00 cheetah-srv login[642]: FAILED LOGIN (1) on '/dev/tty2' FOR 'UNKNOWN', Authentication failure 2011-04-26T18:47:56.727366-06:00 cheetah-srv login[642]: pam_unix(login:session): session opened for user user1 by LOGIN(uid=0) 2011-04-26T18:48:21.735045-06:00 cheetah-srv sudo: user1 : TTY=tty2 ; PWD=/home/user1 ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/bin/su 2011-04-26T18:48:21.748871-06:00 cheetah-srv su[11794]: Successful su for root by root 2011-04-26T18:48:21.749444-06:00 cheetah-srv su[11794]: + /dev/tty2 root:root 2011-04-26T18:48:21.751316-06:00 cheetah-srv su[11794]: pam_unix(su:session): session opened for user root by user1(uid=0) 2011-04-26T18:56:50-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6423]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser= rhost=172.30.1.77 user=root 2011-04-26T18:56:53-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6423]: Failed password for root from 172.30.1.77 port 60372 ssh2 2011-04-26T18:56:56-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6423]: last message repeated 2 times 2011-04-26T18:56:56-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6423]: PAM 2 more authentication failures; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser= rhost=17 2.30.1.77 user=root 2011-04-26T18:56:57-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6425]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser= rhost=172.30.1.77 user=root 2011-04-26T18:56:59-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6425]: Failed password for root from 172.30.1.77 port 60373 ssh2 2011-04-26T18:57:02-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6425]: last message repeated 2 times 2011-04-26T18:57:02-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6425]: PAM 2 more authentication failures; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser= rhost=17 2.30.1.77 user=root 2011-04-26T18:57:02-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6427]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser= rhost=172.30.1.77 user=root 2011-04-26T18:57:04-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6427]: Failed password for root from 172.30.1.77 port 60374 ssh2 2011-04-26T18:57:07-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6427]: last message repeated 2 times 2011-04-26T18:57:07-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6427]: PAM 2 more authentication failures; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser= rhost=17 2.30.1.77 user=root 2011-04-26T18:57:07-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6429]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser= rhost=172.30.1.77 user=root 2011-04-26T18:57:09-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6429]: Failed password for root from 172.30.1.77 port 60375 ssh2 2011-04-26T18:57:13-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6429]: last message repeated 2 times</pre>

Figure 1/Root.

List ▾	Format	20 Per Page ▾
i	Time	Event
		host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:05:10.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:05:10-06:00 baboon-srv sudo: pam_unix(sudo:auth): authentication failure; logname=bob uid=0 euid=0 tty=/dev/pts/0 ruser=rhost= user=bob host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:04:05.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:04:05-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6561]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser=rhost=172.30.1.77 user=bob host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:03:59.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:03:59-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6559]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser=rhost=172.30.1.77 user=bob host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:03:52.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:03:52-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6557]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser=rhost=172.30.1.77 user=bob host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:03:44.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:03:44-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6555]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser=rhost=172.30.1.77 user=bob host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:03:37.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:03:37-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6553]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser=rhost=172.30.1.77 user=bob host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:03:30.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:03:30-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6551]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser=rhost=172.30.1.77 user=bob host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:03:22.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:03:22-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6549]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser=rhost=172.30.1.77 user=bob host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:03:15.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:03:15-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6547]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser=rhost=172.30.1.77 user=bob host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:03:08.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:03:08-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6545]: pam_unix(sshd:auth): authentication failure; logname= uid=0 euid=0 tty=ssh ruser=rhost=172.30.1.77 user=bob host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth

Figure 2/Bob.

After the login attempts bob user system was compromised as shown in the figure below.

i	Time	Event
>	11/15/24 1:04:33.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:04:33-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6632]: Accepted password for bob from 172.30.1.77 port 49215 ssh2 host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:04:07.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:04:07-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6561]: Accepted password for bob from 172.30.1.77 port 49214 ssh2 host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth

Figure 3/Accepted.

The compromise didn't last for long before the system was disconnected. The figure below shows the activities relating to the compromise.

i	Time	Event
>	11/15/24 1:04:33.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:04:33-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6632]: Accepted password for bob from 172.30.1.77 port 49215 ssh2 host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:04:08.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:04:08-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6631]: Received disconnect from 172.30.1.77: 11: host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:04:07.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:04:07-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6561]: Accepted password for bob from 172.30.1.77 port 49214 ssh2 host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:04:07.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:04:07-06:00 baboon-srv sshd[6561]: Failed password for bob from 172.30.1.77 port 49214 ssh2 host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth

Figure 4/Extent.

During the compromise period the attacker did run commands as a root user from the compromised bob user as shown in the figure below. The sudo command grants the user super user privileges and can run commands as a root user (Brian, 2004).

i	Time	Event
>	11/15/24 1:07:15.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:07:15-06:00 baboon-srv sudo: bob : TTY=pts/0 ; PWD=/home/bob ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/usr/bin/apt-get install nmap host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:07:03.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:07:03-06:00 baboon-srv sudo: bob : TTY=pts/0 ; PWD=/home/bob ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/usr/bin/apt-get update host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:05:34.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:05:34-06:00 baboon-srv sudo: bob : TTY=pts/0 ; PWD=/home/bob ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/usr/sbin/tcpdump -nni eth0 host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:05:18.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:05:18-06:00 baboon-srv sudo: bob : TTY=pts/0 ; PWD=/home/bob ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/usr/bin/vi /var/log/auth.log host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/15/24 1:05:10.000 AM	2011-04-26T19:05:10-06:00 baboon-srv sudo: pam_unix(sudo:auth): authentication failure; logname=bob uid=0 euid=0 tty=/dev/pts/0 ruser= rhost= user=bob host = c5fb6d9ac6c2   source = auth.log   sourcetype = auth
>	11/14/24 11:17:01.000 PM	2011-04-26T17:17:01-06:00 baboon-srv CRON[6370]: pam_unix(cron:session): session opened for user root by (uid=0) ... 10 lines omitted ... 2011-04-26T18:47:56.727366-06:00 cheetah-srv login[642]: pam_unix(login:session): session opened for user user1 by LOGIN(uid=0) 2011-04-26T18:48:21.735045-06:00 cheetah-srv sudo: user1 : TTY=tty2 ; PWD=/home/user1 ; USER=root ; COMMAND=/bin/su 2011-04-26T18:48:21.748871-06:00 cheetah-srv su[11794]: Successful su for root by root 2011-04-26T18:48:21.749444-06:00 cheetah-srv su[11794]: + /dev/tty2 root:root <a href="#">Show all 257 lines</a>

PWD – print working directory shows the current directory that was used during when the compromise happened and the directory on which the commands were ran. Apt-get install nmap - this command was used to install nmap (network mapper) from the package database that holds the records available in a distribution. Apt-get is a package management tool used in Linux distributions. Nmap is a command line tool that is used for network exploration, security auditing and penetration testing. It is used to discover hosts and services on a network (Christopher, 2013).

Tcpdump command is used to capture network traffic on a Linux system. The above Tcpdump -nni eth0 meant -n- not to resolve hostnames and only display ip addresses. -n this prompt to show only raw port numbers and – I to capture network on the eth0 interface specified which is the ethernet network interface (Korbin, 2021).

## Dynamic Malware Analysis

This section we will be investigating a packet capture containing the network traffic from a target's home network. We uploaded the file on [www.virustotal.com](http://www.virustotal.com) an online tool that is used to analyze suspicious files, URL, domains and IPs detecting malware and other malicious activities and log it to the security community. The file returned the following results as shown in the screenshot below.

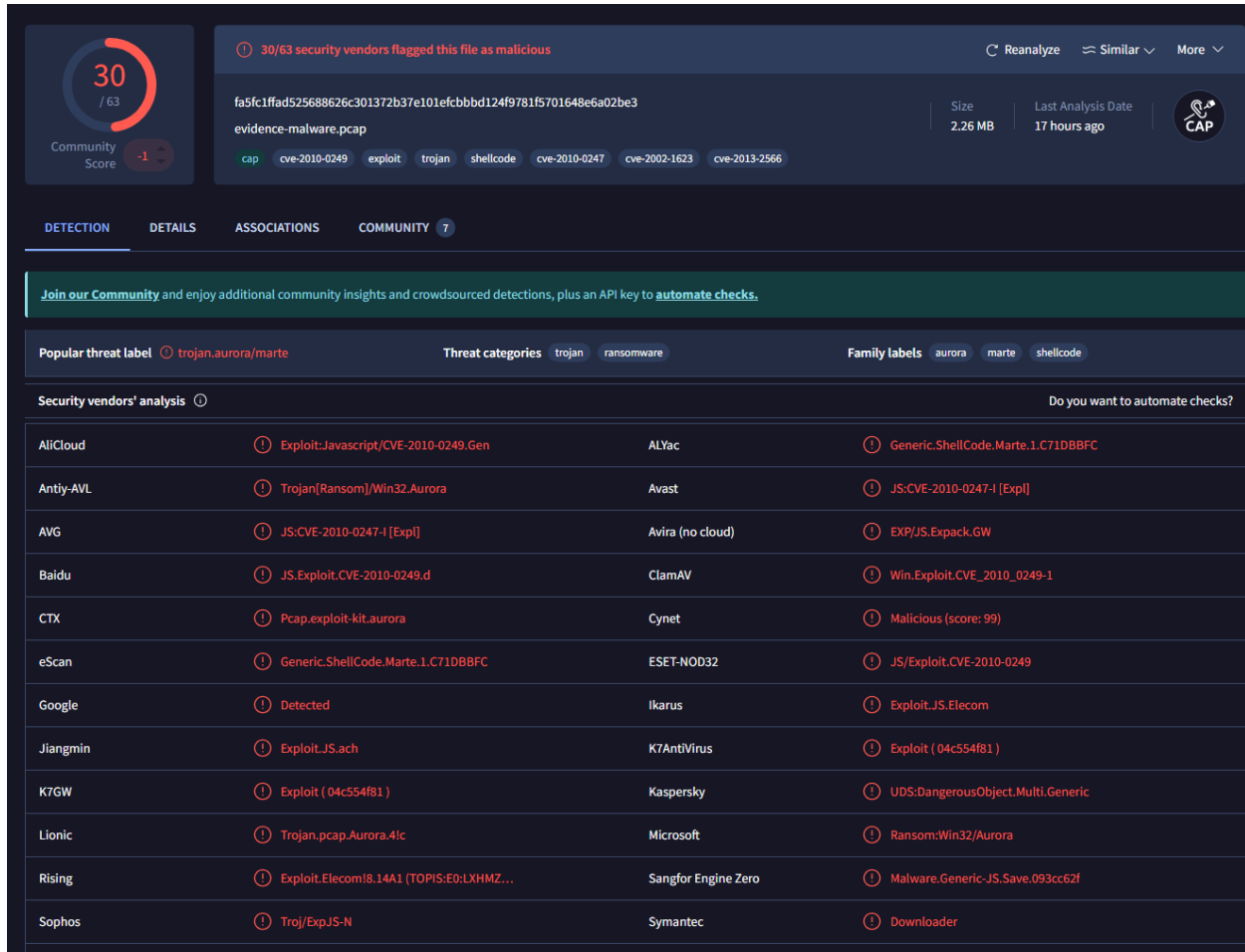


Figure 5/Virustotal.

The file was flagged by 30 out of a total of 63 participating communities as a malicious file where Trojan aurora was found to be the popular threat label. Trojan Aurora is a type of trojan that is leveraged to steal sensitive information from the targeted computer such as login credentials, financial information and other personal data (Stelian, 2022).

We continued with the investigation that showed that the compromise originated from the server 10.10.10.10 through a GET request as shown in the figure below.

```

GET /index.php HTTP/1.1
Accept: image/gif, image/x-xbitmap, image/jpeg, image/pjpeg, application/x-shockwave-flash, */*
Accept-Language: en-us
Accept-Encoding: gzip, deflate
User-Agent: Mozilla/4.0 (compatible; MSIE 6.0; Windows NT 5.1; SV1)
Host: 10.10.10.10:8080
Connection: Keep-Alive

HTTP/1.1 200 OK
Content-Type: text/html
Pragma: no-cache
Connection: Keep-Alive
Server: Apache
Content-Length: 5748

<!DOCTYPE HTML PUBLIC "-//W3C//DTD HTML 4.0//EN">
<html>
<head>
<script>
var UWnHADOfYHihDDXj = "COMMENT";
var
nSNvK0rdTiajEnPTf0ihPH0nnHSGtzm00vnFhLFFxNqAxicRv7KKWiRWmllaDHE0u7HPH0l_rRESz0uPusTn0vnn0w

```

Figure 6/TCP Stream

This compromise used the GET request where the user 10.10.10.70 sent a GET request to <http://10.10.10.10:8080/index.php>. From the Wireshark screenshot below, after the response another GET request was sent for a gif file `/index.phpmfKSxSANkeTeNrah.gif` which after it was received a three-way TCP hand shake happened.

No.	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length	Info
1	0.000000	10.10.10.70	10.10.10.10	HTTP	351	GET /index.php HTTP/1.1
2	0.000098	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.70	TCP	60	http-alt > mxrlogin [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=298 Win=8576 Len=0
3	0.345405	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.70	TCP	1514	[TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
4	0.345484	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.70	TCP	1514	[TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
5	0.345608	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.70	TCP	1514	[TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
6	0.345729	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.70	TCP	1514	[TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
7	0.345824	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.10	TCP	60	mxrlogin > http-alt [ACK] Seq=298 Ack=5841 Win=65535 Len=0
8	0.345929	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.70	HTTP	86	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
9	0.462112	10.10.10.70	10.10.10.10	HTTP	415	GET /index.phpmfKSxSANkeTeNrah.gif HTTP/1.1
10	0.462229	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.70	TCP	60	http-alt > mxrlogin [ACK] Seq=5873 Ack=659 Win=9648 Len=0
11	0.567143	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.70	HTTP	201	HTTP/1.1 200 OK (GIF89a)
12	0.737217	10.10.10.70	10.10.10.10	TCP	60	mxrlogin > http-alt [ACK] Seq=659 Ack=6020 Win=65356 Len=0
13	1.265851	10.10.10.70	10.10.10.10	TCP	62	nsstp > krb524 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=65535 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1
14	1.265922	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.70	TCP	62	krb524 > nsstp [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=5840 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1
15	1.266218	10.10.10.70	10.10.10.10	TCP	60	nsstp > krb524 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=65535 Len=0
16	1.526339	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.70	TCP	60	krb524 > nsstp [PSH, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=5840 Len=4
17	1.529777	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.70	TCP	1514	krb524 > nsstp [ACK] Seq=5 Ack=1 Win=5840 Len=1460
18	1.529856	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.70	TCP	1514	krb524 > nsstp [ACK] Seq=1465 Ack=1 Win=5840 Len=1460
19	1.530178	10.10.10.70	10.10.10.10	TCP	60	nsstp > krb524 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=2925 Win=65535 Len=0
20	1.530420	10.10.10.10	10.10.10.70	TCP	1514	krb524 > nsstp [ACK] Seq=2925 Ack=1 Win=5840 Len=1460

Figure 7/TCP.

The three-way handshake is a process in the TCP/IP network used to establish connection between the server and the client. This process requires the server and client to exchange synchronization and acknowledgement packets before the data communication commences. This process encompasses SYN(synchronization) which is used to initiate and establish a connection between the devices, ACK(acknowledgement) which is used to confirm that it has received the SYN, SYN-ACK which has the SYN from the local device and the ACK of the earlier packet and FIN which is used to terminate the connection (Bryce, 2024).

The next section was to recover the malware and do further analysis. We selected the ACK(Acknowledgement) and followed the TCP stream as shown in the figure below.

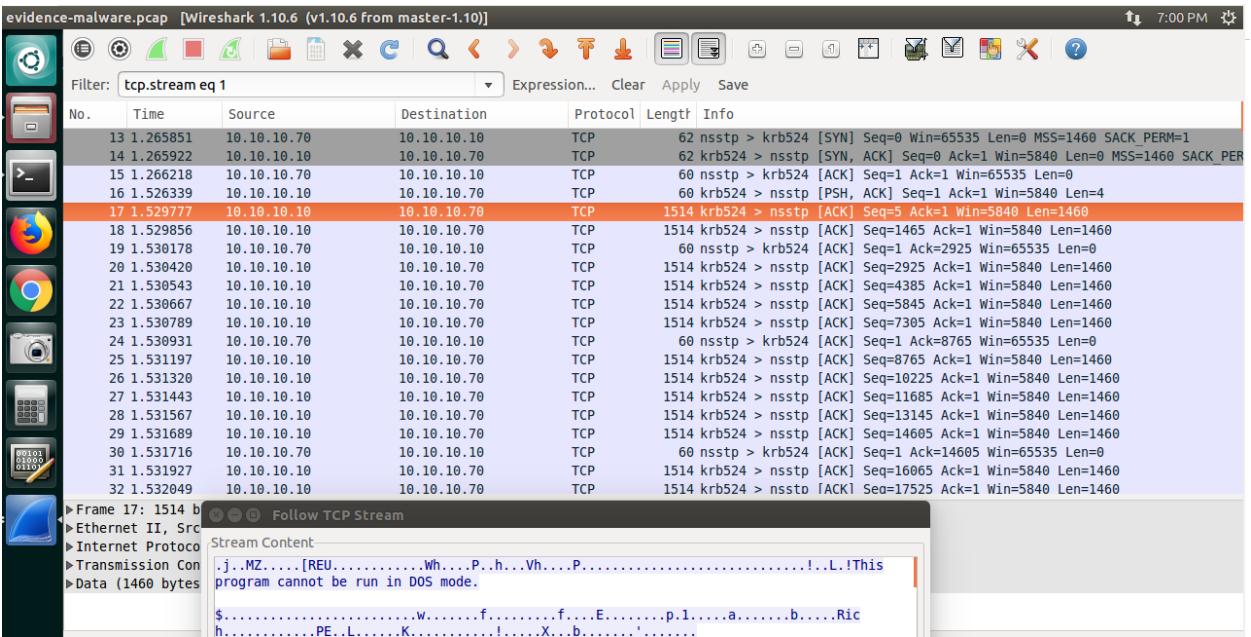


Figure 8/Stream.

The MZ header stands for the initials of Microsoft engineer Mark Zbikowski and this file format was designed as a relocatable executable running on real mode. This executable can be used so that a single executable can provide 2 ports of the same application (Mediawiki, 2024).

We then extracted the two files that engaged in the prior steps which were index.php and index.phpmfKSxSANkeTeNrah.gif.

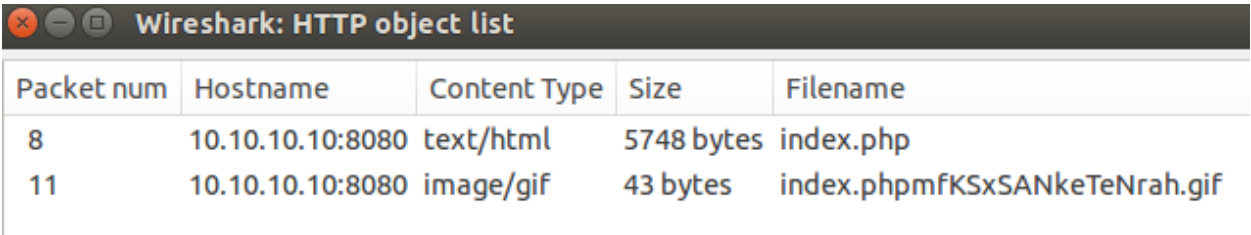


Figure 9/Files.

After extracting we ran a md5sum on the files to get the md5 values and then uploaded the file to virustotal as shown and discussed below.

```
sansforensics@siftworkstation: ~
sansforensics@siftworkstation:~$ md5sum '/home/sansforensics/Desktop/cases/Evidence/Dynamic Malware Analysis/evidence/index.php'
03fae1d2f7a0bec010398e58138a493c /home/sansforensics/Desktop/cases/Evidence/Dynamic Malware Analysis/evidence/index.php
sansforensics@siftworkstation:~$
```

Figure 10/md51.

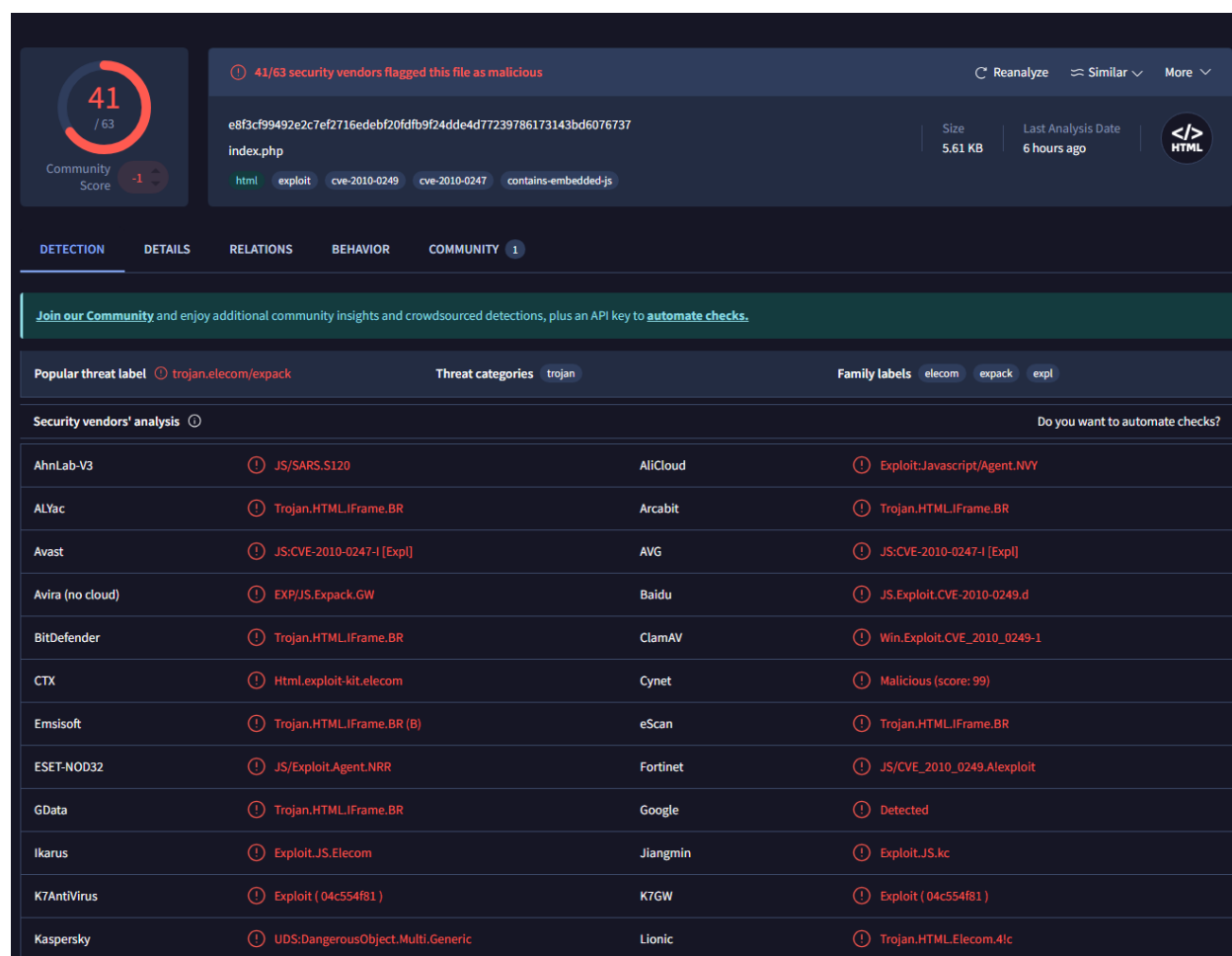


Figure 11/php1.

The index.php returned a malicious file according to virustotal being flagged by 41 community participants with the popular threat being trojan.elecom/exepack. This trojan type was related to elecom software that exploited the camera assistant and quickfiledealer software that allowed adversaries to gain elevated privileges on affected systems. The exepack section defines a program that is used to compress and decompress executables, hence a format for self-extracting executables (clouddefense, 2023).

```
sansforensics@siftworkstation:~$ md5sum '/home/sansforensics/Desktop/cases/Evidence/Dynamic Malware Analysis/evidence/index.phpmfKSxSANkeTeNrah.gif'
df3e567d6f16d040326c7a0ea29a4f41  /home/sansforensics/Desktop/cases/Evidence/Dynamic Malware Analysis/evidence/index.phpmfKSxSANkeTeNrah.gif
sansforensics@siftworkstation:~$
```

Figure 12/md5sum2.

0

/ 62

Community Score -97

File distributed by Microsoft, Apple and others.

Reanalyze Similar More

548f2d6f4d0d820c6c5ffbeffc7f0e73193e2932eefe542accc84762deec87

Size 43 B

Last Analysis Date 6 hours ago

GIF

wmspacer.gif

gif

known-distributor

trusted

nsrl

attachment

legit

DETECTION

DETAILS

RELATIONS

ASSOCIATIONS

COMMUNITY 30 +

Join our Community and enjoy additional community insights and crowdsourced detections, plus an API key to [automate checks](#).

Security vendors' analysis ⓘ

Do you want to automate checks?

Acronis (Static ML)	✓ Undetected	AhnLab-V3	✓ Undetected
ALYac	✓ Undetected	Antiy-AVL	✓ Undetected
Arcabit	✓ Undetected	Avast	✓ Undetected
AVG	✓ Undetected	Avira (no cloud)	✓ Undetected
Baidu	✓ Undetected	BitDefender	✓ Undetected
Bkav Pro	✓ Undetected	ClamAV	✓ Undetected
CMC	✓ Undetected	CrowdStrike Falcon	✓ Undetected
CTX	✓ Undetected	Cynet	✓ Undetected
DrWeb	✓ Undetected	Emsisoft	✓ Undetected
eScan	✓ Undetected	ESET-NOD32	✓ Undetected
Fortinet	✓ Undetected	GData	✓ Undetected
Google	✓ Undetected	Gridinsoft (no cloud)	✓ Undetected
Huorong	✓ Undetected	Ikarus	✓ Undetected

Figure 13/giffile.

This file was not flagged by any community sources therefore it didn't have any malicious programs.

## References

- Brian, W. (2004). *How Linux Works : What every superuser should know*. San Francisco: no starch press Inc.
- Bryce, L. (2024, June 27). *TCP 3-Way Handshake (SYN, SYN-ACK,ACK)*. Retrieved from guru99: <https://www.guru99.com/tcp-3-way-handshake.html>
- Christopher, N. (2013). *Ubuntu Linux Toolbox: 1000+ commands for power Users*. Indianapolis: John Wiley & Sons Inc.
- clouddefense. (2023, October 10). *CVE-2023-22368 : Security Advisory and Response*. Retrieved from Clouddefense.ai: <https://www.clouddefense.ai/cve/2023/CVE-2023-22368>
- Korbin, B. (2021, March 30). *How to use tcpdump command on linux*. Retrieved from Linuxconfig: <https://linuxconfig.org/how-to-use-tcpdump-command-on-linux>
- Mediawiki. (2024, February 28). *MZ*. Retrieved from Osdev.org: [https://wiki.osdev.org/MZ#MZ\\_File\\_Structure](https://wiki.osdev.org/MZ#MZ_File_Structure)
- Stelian, P. (2022, December 26). *How To Remove Trojan Aurora [Virus Removal Guide]*. Retrieved from Malware Tips: <https://malwaretips.com/blogs/remove-trojan-aurora/>