DELHI TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

MALWARE ANALYSIS

[IT-321]

Static and Dynamic Analysis of Doppelpaymer Ransomware

(MIDTERM PROJECT REPORT)

Name: Dhairya Varshney
Roll No: 2K19/IT/041

Name: Anshul Satija
Roll No: 2K19/EP/018

Submitted To - Prof. Kapil Sharma

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INTRODUCTION

Malware attacks are popular cyberattacks in which malware (usually malicious software) performs illegal operations on the victim's computer.

Malicious software (sometimes known as a virus) covers a wide range of assaults, including ransomware, spyware, command and control, and more.

Malware refers to various sorts of harmful software, including viruses, and it is used by cybercriminals for a variety of objectives, including:

- Persuading a victim to provide personal information in order to commit identity theft.
- Stealing credit card details or other financial information from consumers.
- Taking control of a large number of computers in order to perform denial-of-service attacks against other networks.
- Infecting computers and mining bitcoin or other coins with them.

The manipulation of human emotions is a common virus distribution strategy known as social engineering. Spam phishing is used in social engineering via email, instant chats, social media, and other methods. The objective is to persuade the user to download malware or visit a compromised website that contains the infection.

Often, the communications utilize a scare approach, informing the user that there is a problem with their account and that they should instantly click on the link to log in or download an attachment that contains malware.

Malware will undoubtedly infiltrate your network. You must have protections that enable a high level of visibility and detection of breaches. To eradicate malware, you must be able to swiftly detect harmful actors. This necessitates continuous network inspection. Once the issue has been recognized, the malware must be removed from your network. Antivirus software alone is insufficient to guard against sophisticated cyber attacks.

DIFFERENT TYPES OF MALWARE

Trojan Virus

Trojan infections masquerade as useful software packages. However, once downloaded, the Trojan virus has access to sensitive data and may edit, block, or erase it. This can be incredibly detrimental to the device's functioning. Trojan viruses, unlike conventional viruses and worms, are not meant to multiply themselves.

Adware

Adware is harmful software that collects data about your computer activities and displays relevant advertising to you. While adware is not necessarily malicious, it might cause problems for your system in rare circumstances. Adware may cause your browser to be redirected to hazardous websites and may even include Trojan horses and malware. Furthermore, high quantities of adware can significantly slow down your machine. Because not all adware is dangerous, it is critical to have security that detects these apps on a regular and intelligent basis.

Ransomware

Ransomware is malicious software that acquires access to sensitive information within a system, encrypts it so that the user cannot access it, and then demands a cash payment to have the data freed. Ransomware is frequently used as part of a phishing hoax. The ransomware is downloaded by the user by clicking on a spoof link. The attacker then encrypts particular information that can only be decrypted using a mathematical key that they know. The data is unlocked after the attacker gets the money.

Spyware

Spyware is malicious software that operates in the background of a computer and sends information to a remote user. Rather than just interfering with a device's functionality, spyware targets sensitive data and can provide predators with remote access. Spyware is frequently used to steal financial or personal data. A keylogger is a sort of malware that captures your keystrokes in order to divulge passwords and personal

information.

Virus

Viruses are a type of malware. A virus is a malicious software that is attached to a document or file that supports macros in order for it to run its code and propagate from host to host. The virus will remain dormant once downloaded until the file is opened and used. Viruses are meant to interfere with a system's capacity to function. As a result, viruses can disrupt operations and cause data loss.

Worms

Worms are harmful programs that quickly reproduce and spread to any device on a network. Worms, unlike viruses, do not require host programs to spread. A worm infects a system via a downloaded file or a network connection before rapidly multiplying and dispersing. Worms, like viruses, may significantly interrupt device functions and cause data loss.

NEED FOR MALWARE ANALYSIS

When there is a security concern and malware is the cause, malware analysis enters the picture and plays an important part in creating an incident response. It informs users of the actions necessary for recovery. It assists responders in determining the scope of the malware-related incident and identifying the hosts, servers, or systems affected. Malware analysis also offers actionable information that assists companies in avoiding or mitigating malware-generated hazards. It aids in the prevention of further compromise.

Malware encompasses viruses, ransomware, rootkits, and Trojans, and a malware assault can have a negative impact on a company's operations. Businesses must implement appropriate security measures, such as malware analysis tools, as well as an incident response strategy that will outline a suitable method to ensure a faster recovery time and lower expenses.

During an incident response, malware analysis is critical in assisting the security team in understanding the scope of the issue as well as identifying the hosts and systems that have been affected. An organization may fix any vulnerabilities and avoid further intrusions with the aid of the malware analysis report.

The fundamental goal of malware analysis is to collect information from a malware sample that may be used to respond to a malware problem. The purpose of malware analysis is to assess a malware's functionality, detect it, and contain it. It also aids in the identification of distinguishing patterns that may be utilized to cure and prevent future illnesses.

Malware analysis use cases are:

1) To determine the malware's type and intent. It can, for example, assist you in determining whether malware is an information stealer, HTTP bot, spam bot, rootkit, keylogger, or RAT, among other things.
2) Malware analysis improves alarms early in the life cycle of an attack. This saves time for teams by sifting results and utilizing technology.
3) The purpose is to offer root cause analysis, assess the effect, and achieve success in repair and recovery. It improves the effort's efficiency and efficacy.
4) Malware researchers obtain knowledge of the most recent malware analysis methodologies, tools, and activities.
5) To determine the network indicators linked to the virus, which may subsequently be utilized to detect similar infestations through network monitoring. For example, if you discover that a virus visits a certain domain/IP address during your investigation, you may utilize that domain/IP address to generate a signature and monitor network traffic to identify all hosts accessing that domain/IP address.
6) To extract host-based indications like filenames and registry entries, which may then be utilized to detect similar infections via host-based monitoring. For example, if you discover that a virus develops a registry key, you may use this registry key as an indication to construct a signature, or you can search your network to find hosts that have the same registry key.
7) To ascertain the attacker's goal and motivation. For example, if you discover that the virus is stealing banking credentials throughout your investigation, you can assume that the attacker's motivation is monetary gain.

STATIC ANALYSIS

When the code is executing, the static analysis does not examine it. Instead, it looks for harmful intent in files. This is useful for identifying infrastructure, compressed files, and libraries. Some technological indications can be used to assess whether or not a file is malicious. However, because it does not execute the code, sophisticated malware is difficult to detect.

DYNAMIC ANALYSIS

Any suspicious harmful code is executed in a safe environment known as a sandbox using dynamic analysis. It allows security specialists to see malware in operation while minimizing the danger of infecting the system. It provides greater visibility in order to disclose the exact nature of the threat. It also shortens the time it takes to rediscover a file containing harmful code. Hackers and adversaries frequently conceal code in a sandbox that will not run unless certain criteria are satisfied.

LIST OF RECENT CYBER-ATTACKS

Hackers are exploiting security flaws all across the world, holding the data of businesses, governments, and healthcare institutions hostage and demanding tens of millions of dollars in ransom. Here are the top 5 ransomware attacks of 2021-

1. COLONIAL PIPELINE - Darkside Ransomware
2. JBS FOODS - REvil Ransomware
3. BRENNTAG - Darkside Ransomware
4. ACER - REvil Ransomware
5. KIA MOTORS - Doppel Paymer Ransomware

BRIEF CASE STUDIES REGARDING THESE ATTACKS

We will briefly discuss how the above-listed attacks were carried out and what damage they caused in this section.

1. COLONIAL PIPELINE

The breach of Colonial Pipeline in late April received the most media attention of all the cyber and ransomware assaults so far in 2021. "The Colonial Pipeline assault had such an impact because the pipeline is an integral element of the national critical infrastructure system," says Joe Giordano, director of Touro College Illinois' Cybersecurity Program. Gas supplies were disrupted all over the East Coast of the United States as a result of the system's downtime, producing confusion and fear."

Due to the fact that most Americans are directly affected by fuel shortages, this strike touched close to home for many people. The attack was carried out by the DarkSide gang, who targeted the company's invoicing system and internal business network, causing major shortages throughout numerous states. Colonial Pipeline finally caved in to the demands and paid the organization $4.4 million in bitcoin to avert additional disruption.

2. JBS FOODS

Although the end of the epidemic was hoped for in Spring 2021, the rise in cyber assaults that began in 2020 showed no indications of abating. JBS Foods, one of the world's largest meat processing corporations, was the target of yet another high-profile ransomware assault in May. REvil, the same Russian hacker organization that targeted Acer, is suspected of being behind the attack.

Despite the fact that there were no serious food shortages as a result of the incident, government officials advised customers not to panic when purchasing meat. After conferring with cybersecurity specialists, JSB reported on June 10th that it had paid the $11 million ransom

demand. This enormous bitcoin payment is one of the most significant ransomware payments ever made.

3. BRENNTAG

DarkSide, the same known hacking gang that hacked Colonial Pipeline, also targeted Brenntag, a chemical distribution firm, around the same time in early May 2021. DarkSide sought the equivalent of $7.5 million in bitcoin after obtaining 150 GB of data.
Brenntag eventually gave in to the demands and paid $4.4 million. Despite being less than half of the initial demand, it remains one of the largest ransomware payments in history. The funds have not yet been retrieved.

4. ACER

In May of this year, the REvil hacking gang, which was also responsible for an attack on London foreign exchange business Travelex, targeted the computer maker Acer. The ransom of $50 million was the greatest known to date. To get access to Acer's information, malicious hackers exploited a weakness in a Microsoft Exchange server, leaking photos of crucial financial papers and spreadsheets.

5. KIA MOTORS

Kia Motors, a Hyundai affiliate, was apparently compromised with ransomware in February. Despite reporting a broad IT and system disruption, Kia has yet to confirm the intrusion. Despite this, many experts trust the DoppelPaymer gang's allegations of a $20 million ransom demand. The group has disclosed some stolen data, but there have been no updates on the breach in the news for several months.

ATTACK ON KIA MOTORS

The ransom demand is significant, according to a post on Bleeping Computer, “To prevent the leak of the data and receive a decryptor, DoppelPaymer is demanding 404 bitcoins worth approximately $20 million. If a ransom is not paid within a specific time frame, the amount increases to 600 bitcoins, or $30 million.”

Apart from Kia Motors, Hyundai also experienced system disruptions, rendering its internal systems and dealer websites inaccessible.

Both organizations denied being targeted by ransomware attacks, however, Bleeping Computer journalists obtained a ransomware letter indicating that the companies were really targeted by a threat actor.

Kia Motors USA had a statewide outage in February that affected its IT servers, self-payment phone services, dealer platforms, and phone support.

EFFECT OF THE ATTACK

The Kia Owners Portal went offline and flashed an error message claiming that Kia was experiencing technical difficulties.

As part of the assault, the company's phone self-help services were also compromised, with support numbers claiming that they had server difficulties that may impede their capacity to aid clients.

The company's mobile apps, including 'Kia Access with UVO Link,' 'UVO eServices,' and 'Kia Connect,' were also affected by the outage.

When attempting to access the applications, customers were faced with a variety of warnings, such as SQL issues, faulty certificates, or maintenance notifications indicating an IT outage, as illustrated above.

At the same time, purchasers were unable to pick up their vehicles from dealerships due to a system failure caused most likely by a ransomware assault.

To prevent the data from being leaked and acquire a decryptor, the ransomware group is asking for 404 bitcoins worth $20 million. If the sum is not paid, it will be increased to 600 bitcoins ($30 million).

WHO WAS BEHIND THE ATTACK

According to a message received by the journalists, the perpetrators are members of the DoppelPaymer ransomware organization. The ransomware group claimed to have targeted KIA's parent firm Hyundai Motor America in the message and threatened to expose the exfiltrated data within 2-3 weeks if Kia Motors refused to negotiate an agreement, while also boosting the ransom from 404 Bitcoins to 600 Bitcoins.
As is typical with this sort of assault, the ransomware group claimed credit and wanted $20 million in Bitcoin to unlock files and prevent critical data from being leaked online.

The DoppelPaymer ransomware group employs a twofold extortion strategy, threatening to disclose the stolen data online if the victim does not pay the ransom.

BASIS OF THE ATTACK

Due to similarities in its code, ransom letters, and payment portals, DoppelPaymer is thought to be modeled on the BitPaymer ransomware (which first emerged in 2017). It is crucial to note, however, that DoppelPaymer and BitPaymer differ in certain ways. DoppelPaymer employs 2048-bit RSA + 256-bit AES encryption, Furthermore, DoppelPaymer employs threaded file encryption.
DoppelPaymer has a highly complex strategy, beginning with network infiltration via malicious spam emails containing spear-phishing URLs or attachments meant to trick unsuspecting users into running malicious code that is frequently masquerading as a legitimate

document. This code is in charge of downloading more sophisticated malware (such as Emotet) into the victim's machine.

ROADMAP OF THE ATTACK

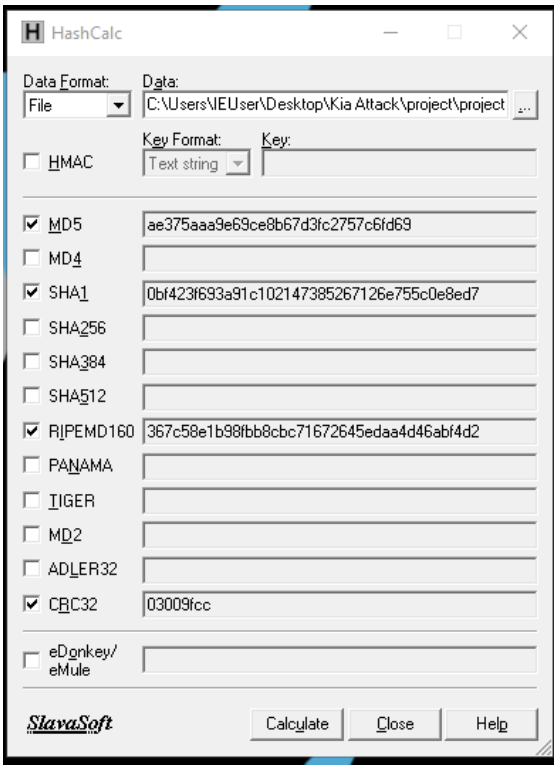
An attack consists of various tactics, including initial access, credential access, and command and control. The attack started with a file name *project.xlsm*, the project.xlsm is a macro-enabled excel document that downloads the file "launcher.zip" to %temp% folder, downloads the file "unzip.exe" to %temp% folder, executes the file "unzip.exe" to get the file "launcher.bat" and then execute the *"launcher.bat"* file.
Launcher.bat will connect to the empire server. After the victim connects to the empire server the hacker simply gets access to the victim's computer and reverse shell through which further attack is conducted.

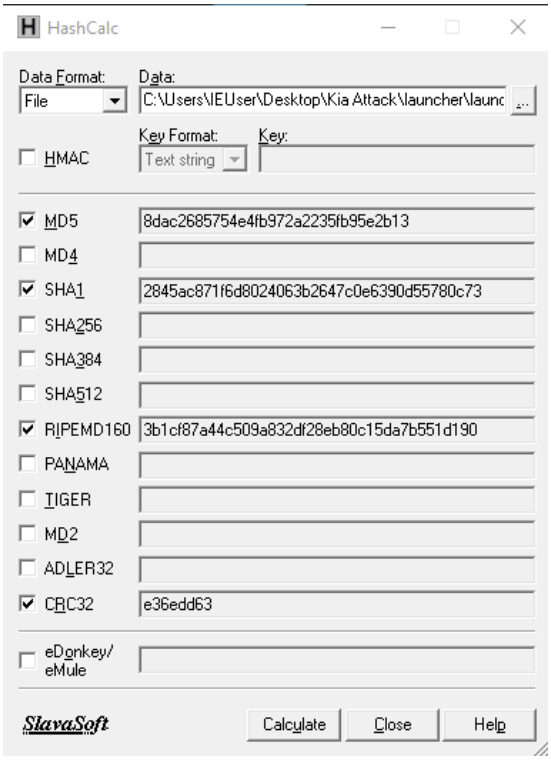
STATIC AND DYNAMIC ANALYSIS OF DOPPELPAYMER RANSOMWARE

STATIC ANALYSIS

Here are the Tools we used for Static Malware Analysis:

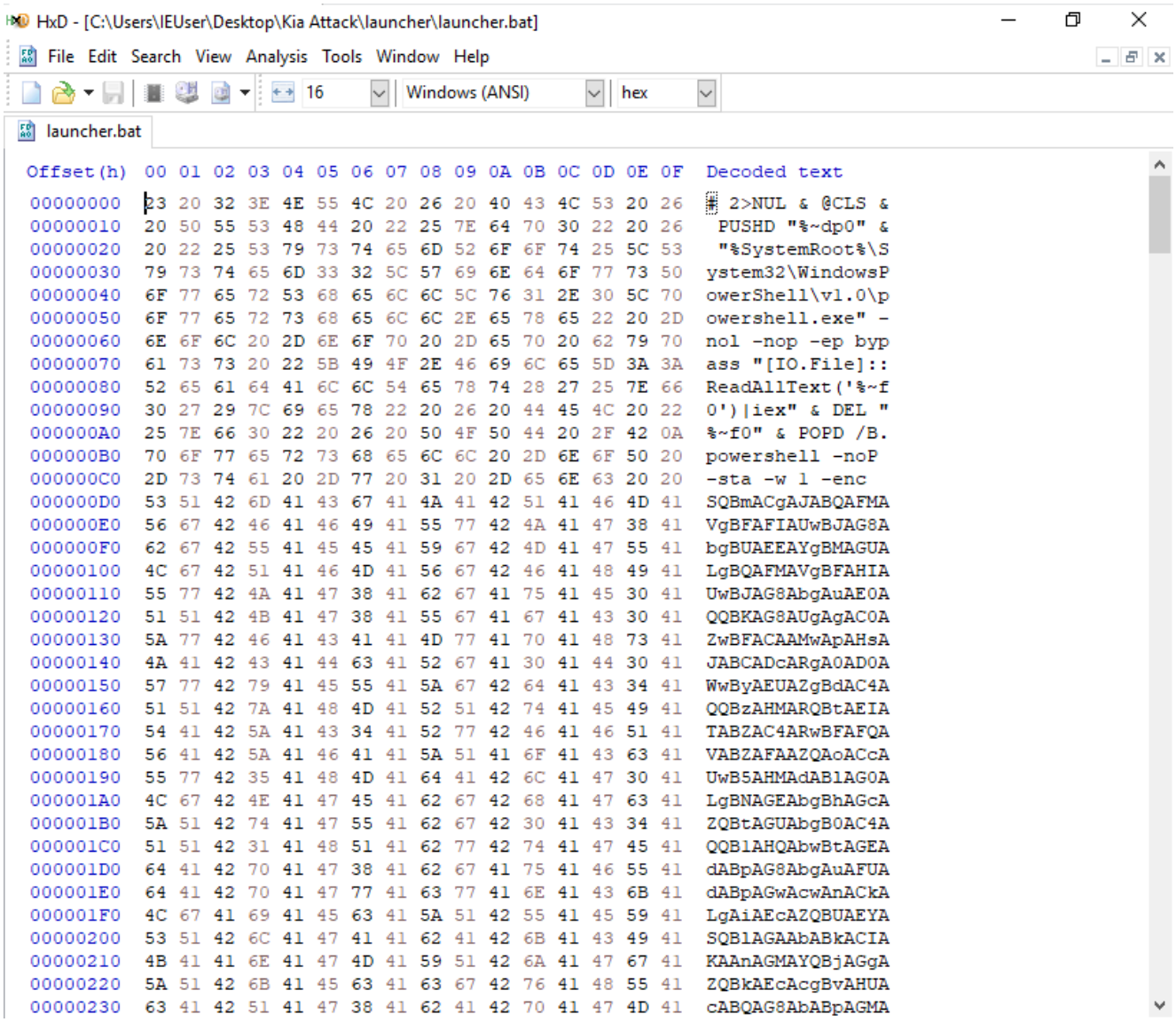
a) HashCalc: HashMyFiles is a small utility that allows you to calculate the MD5 and SHA1 hashes of one or more files in your system. It is one of the most simplest but effective tools for malware analysis. We can then search for Hashes on VirusTotal.





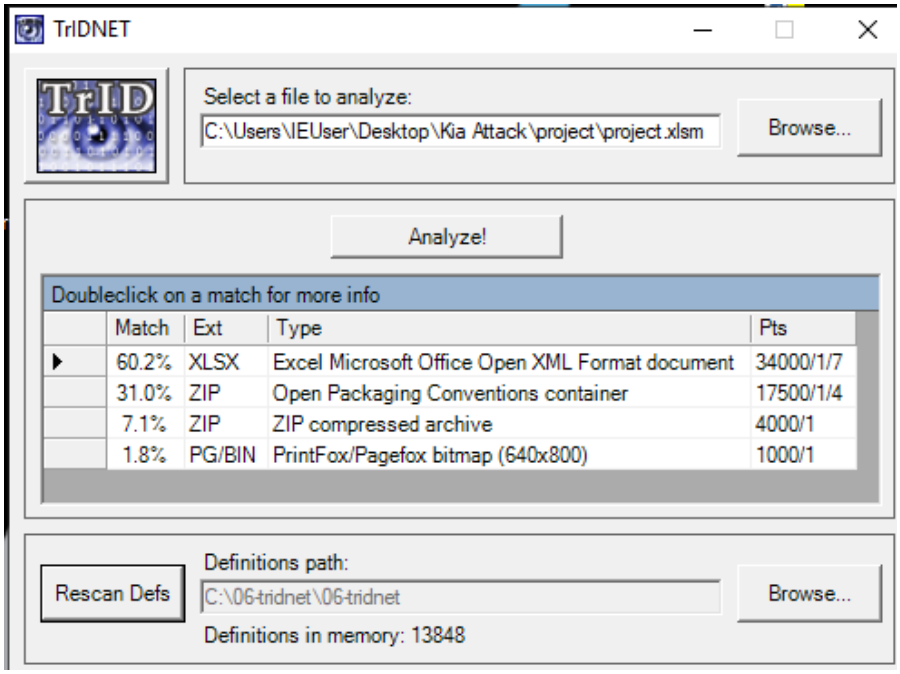
When we searched for these hashes on VirusTotal to our surprise we couldn't find anything about these files/malwares.

b) HxD: HxD is a hex editor, disc editor, and memory editor for Windows. It can open files greater than 4 GB, and edit disc drive raw data, and show and edit the RAM utilized by running processes.



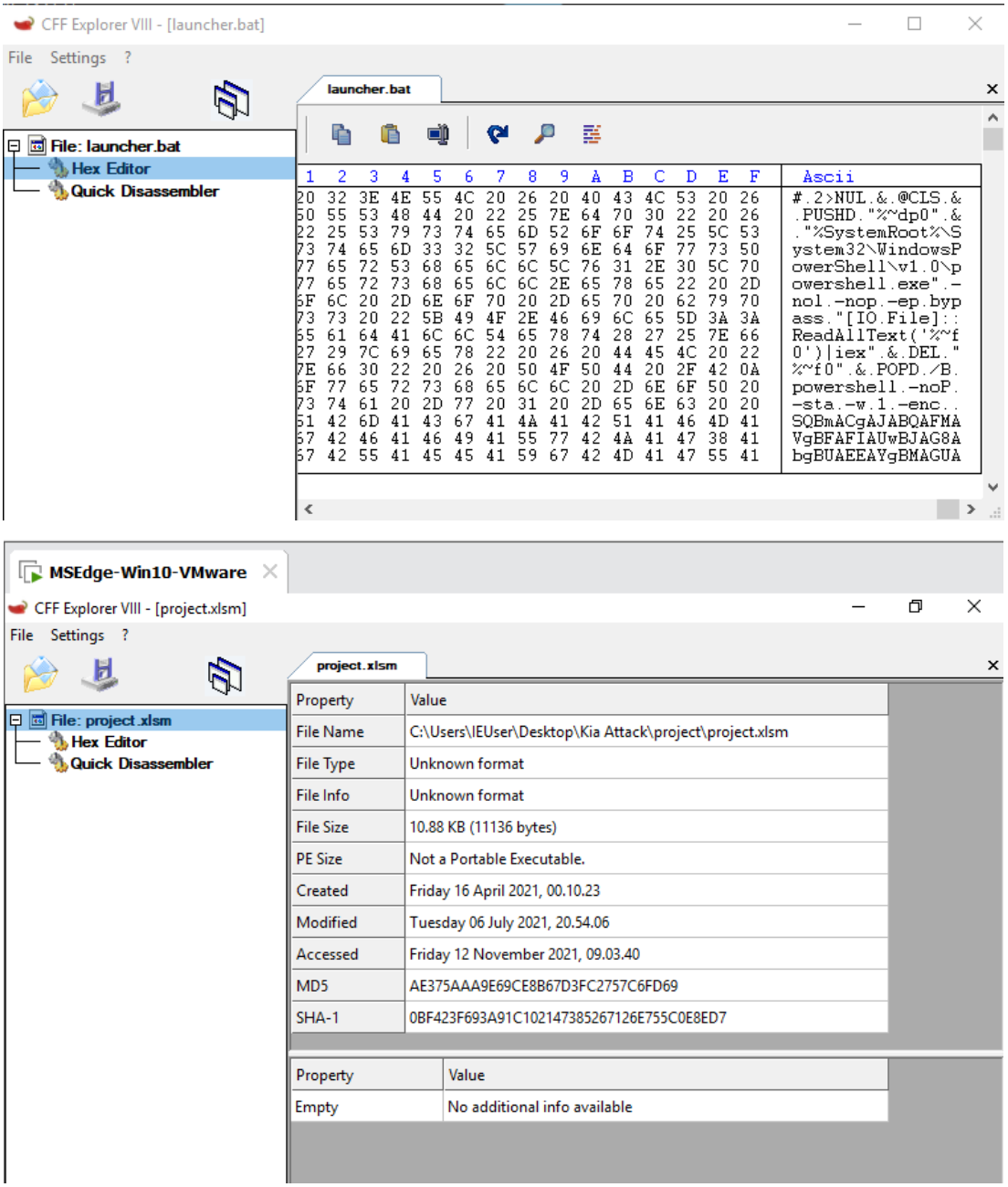
For HxD no valuable information was received from the project.xlsm file but we found out that the launcher.bat file was calling for powershell and that too in administrator mode which was kind of fishy.

c) <u>TridNet</u>: It is a GUI Version of Trid used to identify file types from their binary signatures. It is used to check the real format of a file.



When we analyzed project.xlsm with TriDNeT , we found that the file contains 31% of Open Packaging Conventions Container, after a lot of searching and researching we found that files with the ZIP percentage of more than 38% are a lot of times confirmed to be malicious by VirusTotal although this does not confirm project.xlsm to be malicious but increases the suspicion.

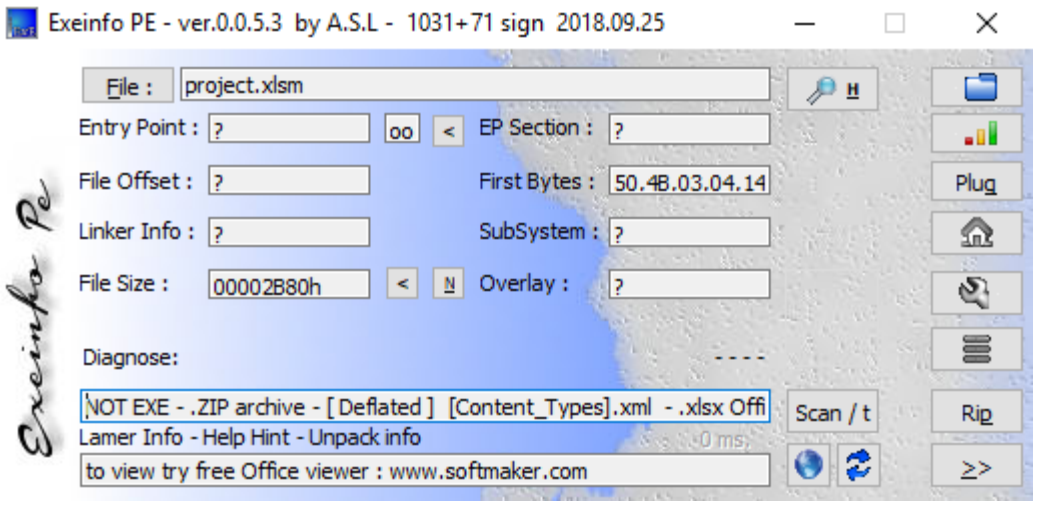
d) <u>CFF Explorer</u>: CFF Explorer was created to make PE editing as simple as possible while not losing sight of the fundamental structure of the portable executable. This application offers a number of tools that may be useful to both reverse engineers and programmers. It has a multi-file environment as well as a switchable interface.



No additional valuable information was received from CFF Explorer, all the information was already available from HxD which makes sense and both are kind of Hex Editors.

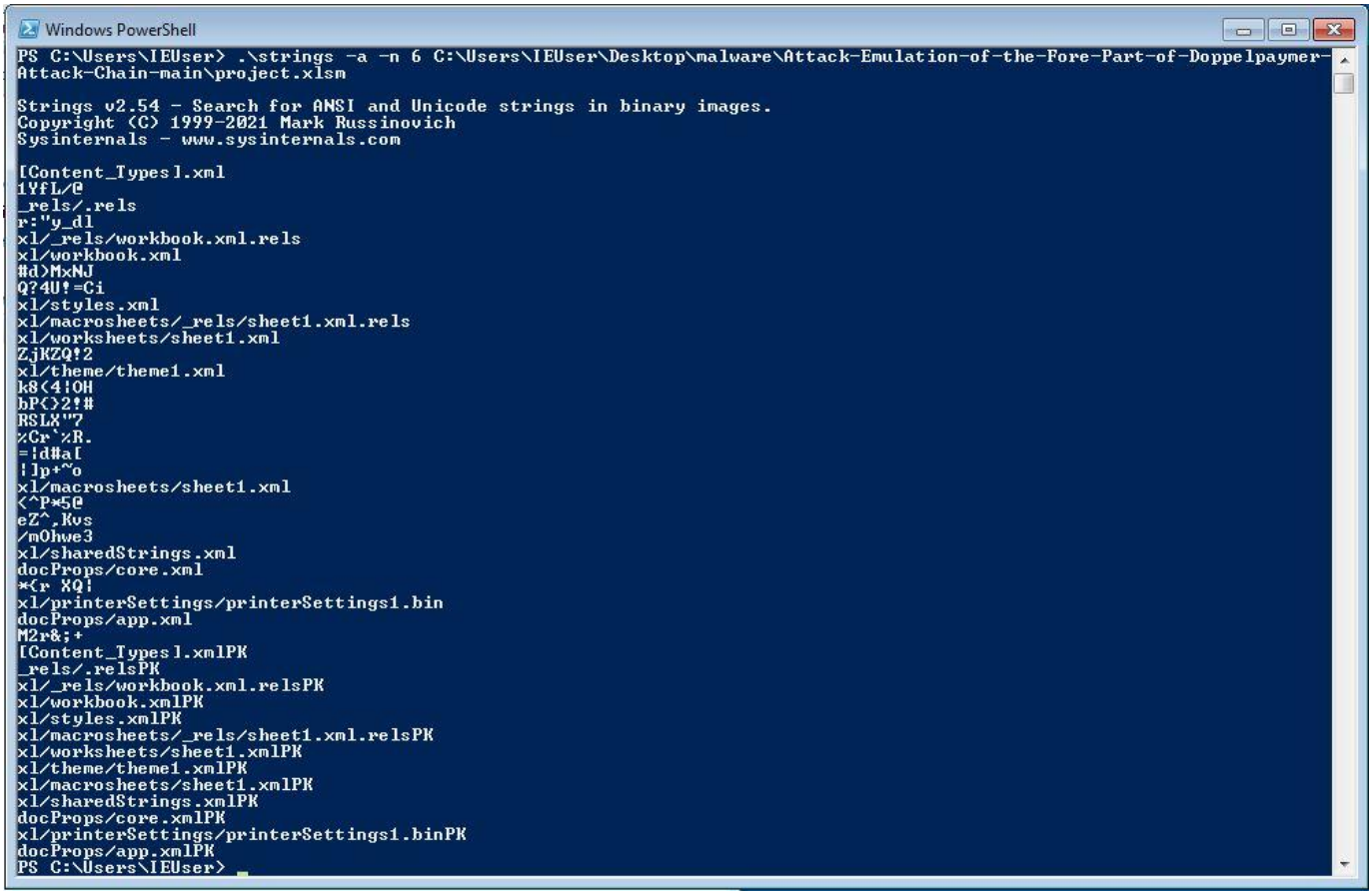
e) <u>ExEinfo PE</u>: ExEinfo PE is an application that allows you to verify.exe files and inspect their characteristics. We can also either alter the file name, launch the.exe directly, or just delete it.

Another piece of information offered is the precise size and place of entrance.

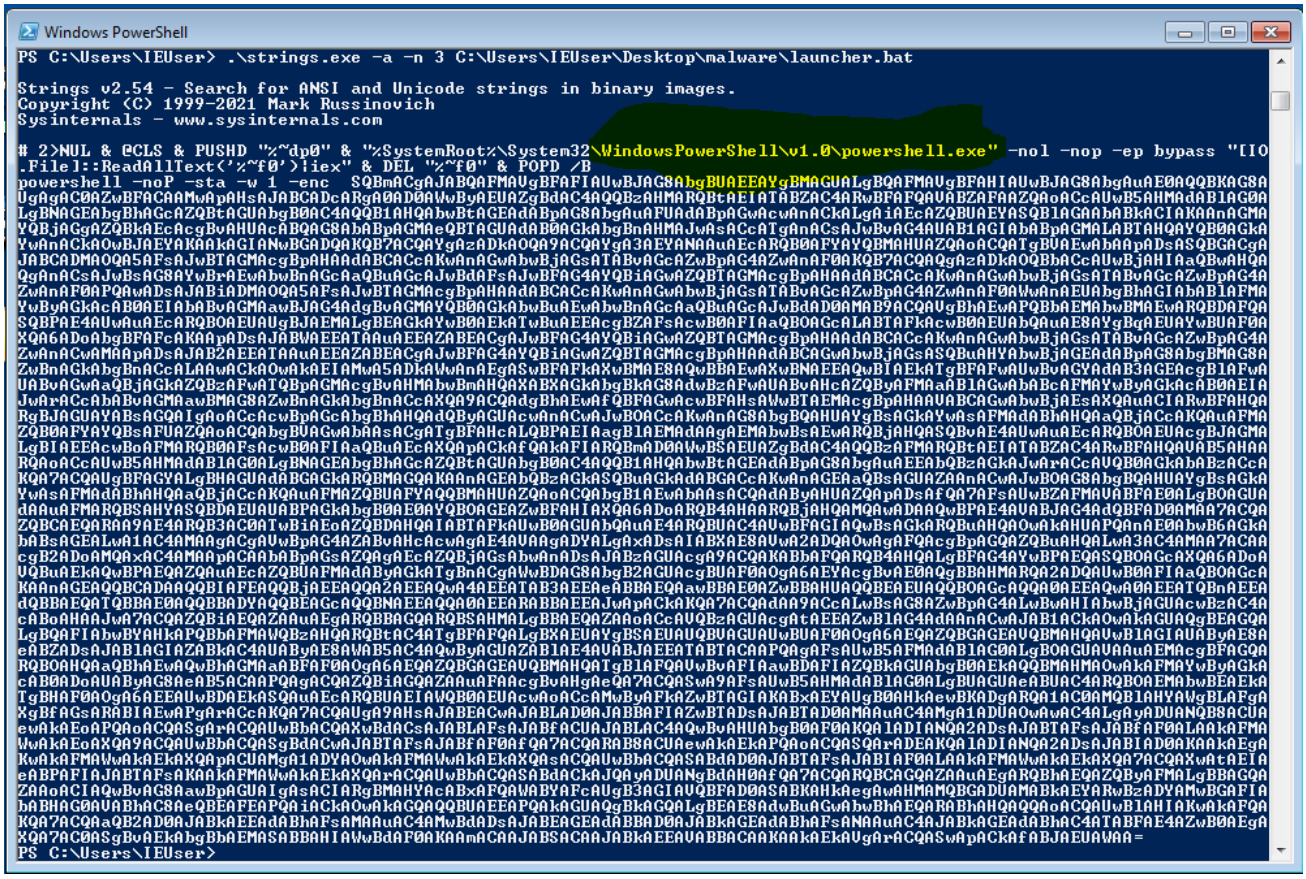


Exeinfo PE confirms that there is a large percentage of ZIP in the project.xlsm file.

f) **<u>Strings:</u>** String is a tool that helps us identify strings present in a file of the format Unicode, or ASCII. With the help of additional command line parameters like -a(for ascii strings), -n(minimum string length) we can extract out much useful information from the strings including hyperlinks, meaningful text written while construction of file to understand the use.



Using Strings for project.xlsm that don't disclose any suspicious information.

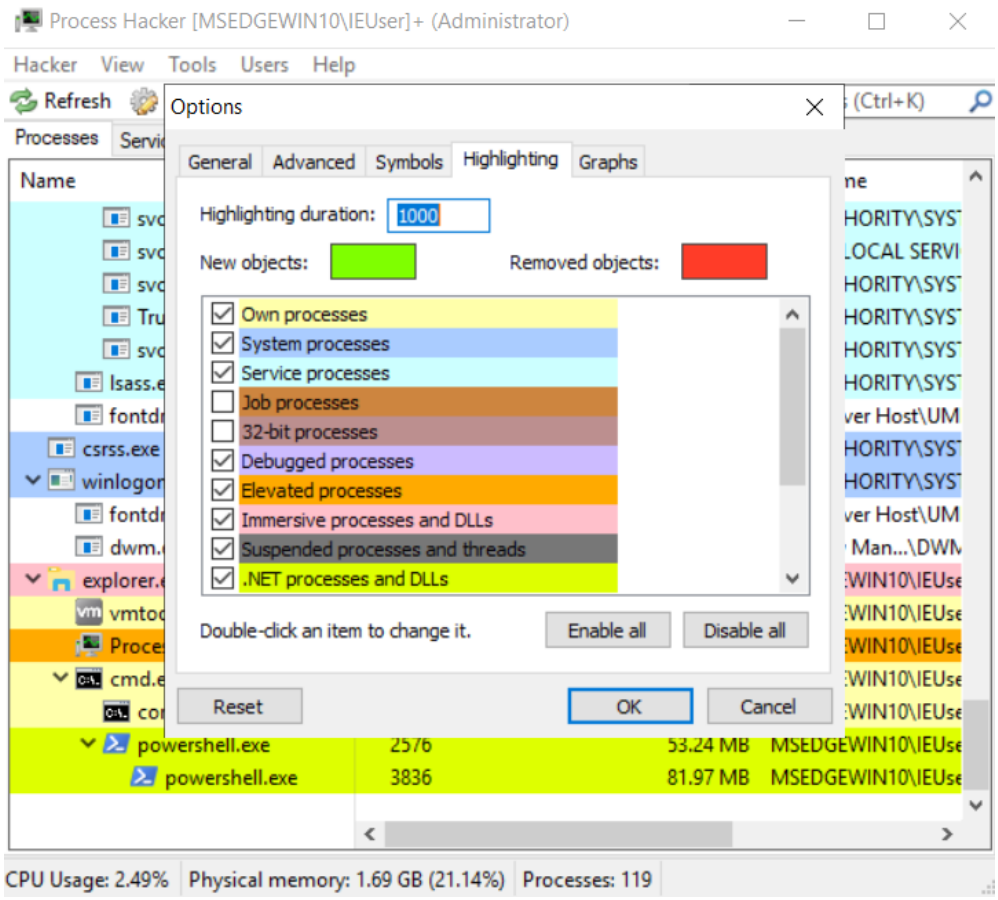


Using strings for launcher.bat. Highlighted text shows us the presence of a command that uses Windows Powershell which is suspicious.

g) <u>PEStudio</u>: PEStudio is a free program that allows you to do static analysis on any Windows executable code. Because a file being analyzed with PeStudio is never started, you may safely examine unknown executables and even malware.

DYNAMIC ANALYSIS

a) **ProcessHacker:** It is a kind of advanced task manager. A free, sophisticated, multi-purpose utility for monitoring system resources, debugging software and detecting malware.

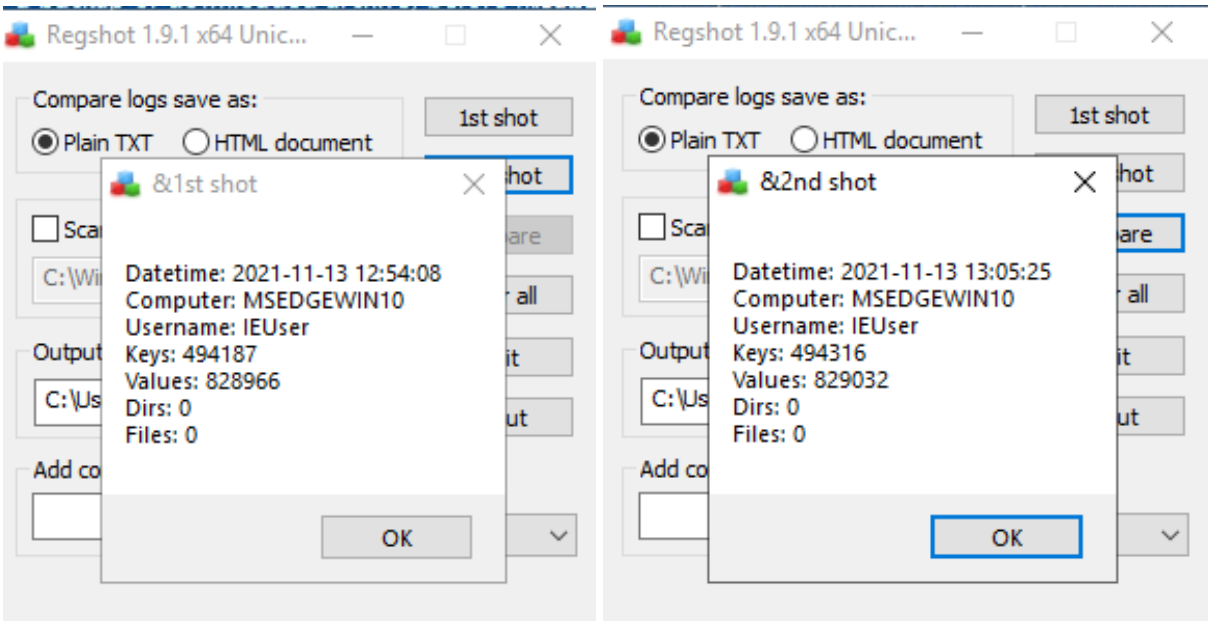


From this we observed that whenever malware is triggered a powershell process is created.

We can also see the dependency of the software on the .NET Processes and DLLs.

Many malicious code species, notably rootkits, employ a method known as "DLL injection," in which malware "injects" code into a running process's address space by compelling it to load a dynamic link library.

b) **Regshot:** Regshot is a registry compare program that allows you to rapidly take a snapshot of your registry and then compares it to another - done after performing system modifications or installing a new software product.



Drive Link For Regshot Results : https://drive.google.com/file/d/1ZWWSIEfolu6wP5YxfNlrL_6EicdB2M54/view?usp=sharing

On studying the Regshot result we came to know that malware made a total of 583 changes and added a total of 245 keys.

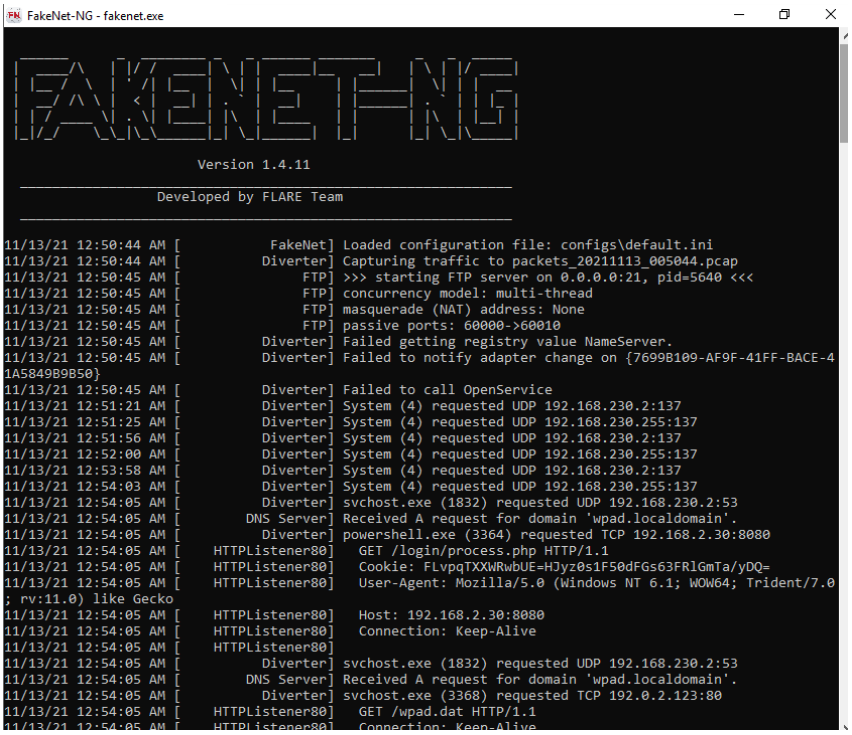
Some notable changes made

- 4 changes in ApplicationViewManagement\W32.
- 20 changes in Shell.
- We saw some major changes in Explorer\SessionInfo\1\ApplicationViewManagement\W32:0000000000803D2\VirtualDesktop:

Which clearly depicts that a malicious connection is established and now the security of the computer as well as network is compromised.

c) **FakeNet:** FakeNet is a dynamic network analysis tool for malware researchers and penetration testers of the future generation. While emulating legal network services, the program allows you to intercept and reroute all or selected network traffic. We may

use FakeNet to quickly identify malware functionality and record network signatures.



FakeNet-NG - fakenet.exe

```
11/13/21 01:04:39 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'client.wns.windows.com'.
11/13/21 01:04:39 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (2752) requested TCP 192.0.2.123:443
11/13/21 01:06:14 AM [          Diverter] System (4) requested UDP 192.168.230.2:137
11/13/21 01:06:15 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (1832) requested UDP 192.168.230.130:53
11/13/21 01:06:15 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'client.wns.windows.com'.
11/13/21 01:06:15 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (2752) requested TCP 192.0.2.123:443
11/13/21 01:06:16 AM [          Diverter] System (4) requested UDP 192.168.230.2:137
11/13/21 01:06:19 AM [          Diverter] System (4) requested UDP 192.168.230.255:137
11/13/21 01:06:51 AM [          Diverter] System (4) requested UDP 192.168.230.2:137
11/13/21 01:06:56 AM [          Diverter] System (4) requested UDP 192.168.230.255:137
11/13/21 01:07:27 AM [          Diverter] System (4) requested UDP 192.168.230.2:137
11/13/21 01:07:32 AM [          Diverter] System (4) requested UDP 192.168.230.255:137
11/13/21 01:07:39 AM [          Diverter] powershell.exe (7028) requested TCP 192.168.2.30:8080
11/13/21 01:07:39 AM [    HTTPListener80]   GET /login/process.php HTTP/1.1
11/13/21 01:07:39 AM [    HTTPListener80]   Cookie: FLvpqTXXWRwbUE=HJyz0s1F50dFGs63FRlGmTa/yDQ=
11/13/21 01:07:39 AM [    HTTPListener80]   User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows NT 6.1; WOW64; Trident/7.0
; rv:11.0) like Gecko
11/13/21 01:07:39 AM [    HTTPListener80]   Host: 192.168.2.30:8080
11/13/21 01:07:39 AM [    HTTPListener80]   Connection: Keep-Alive
11/13/21 01:07:39 AM [    HTTPListener80]
11/13/21 01:07:39 AM [          Diverter] ERROR: Failed to send outbound loopback TCP packet
11/13/21 01:07:39 AM [          Diverter]   TCP 127.0.0.1:80->127.0.0.1:49715
11/13/21 01:07:39 AM [          Diverter]   [Error 87] The parameter is incorrect.
11/13/21 01:07:40 AM [          Diverter] ERROR: Failed to send outbound loopback TCP packet
11/13/21 01:07:40 AM [          Diverter]   TCP 127.0.0.1:80->127.0.0.1:49715
11/13/21 01:07:40 AM [          Diverter]   [Error 87] The parameter is incorrect.
11/13/21 01:07:40 AM [          Diverter] ERROR: Failed to send outbound loopback TCP packet
11/13/21 01:07:40 AM [          Diverter]   TCP 127.0.0.1:80->127.0.0.1:49715
11/13/21 01:07:40 AM [          Diverter]   [Error 87] The parameter is incorrect.
11/13/21 01:07:41 AM [          Diverter] ERROR: Failed to send outbound loopback TCP packet
11/13/21 01:07:41 AM [          Diverter]   TCP 127.0.0.1:80->127.0.0.1:49715
11/13/21 01:07:41 AM [          Diverter]   [Error 87] The parameter is incorrect.
11/13/21 01:07:44 AM [          Diverter] ERROR: Failed to send outbound loopback TCP packet
11/13/21 01:07:44 AM [          Diverter]   TCP 127.0.0.1:80->127.0.0.1:49715
11/13/21 01:07:44 AM [          Diverter]   [Error 87] The parameter is incorrect.
11/13/21 01:07:49 AM [          Diverter] ERROR: Failed to send outbound loopback TCP packet
11/13/21 01:07:49 AM [          Diverter]   TCP 127.0.0.1:80->127.0.0.1:49715
11/13/21 01:07:49 AM [          Diverter]   [Error 87] The parameter is incorrect.
11/13/21 01:08:30 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (1832) requested UDP 192.168.230.130:53
11/13/21 01:08:30 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'client.wns.windows.com'.
11/13/21 01:08:30 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (2752) requested TCP 192.0.2.123:443
11/13/21 01:09:00 AM [          Diverter] System (4) requested UDP 192.168.230.2:137
11/13/21 01:09:19 AM [          Diverter] powershell.exe (7028) requested TCP 192.168.2.30:8080
```

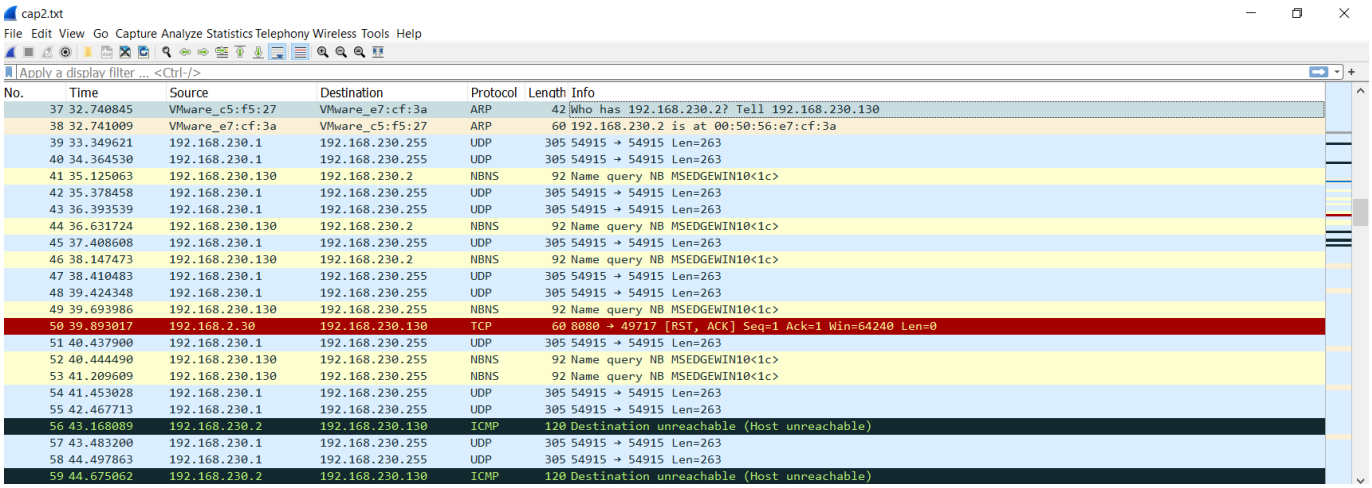
FakeNet-NG - fakenet.exe

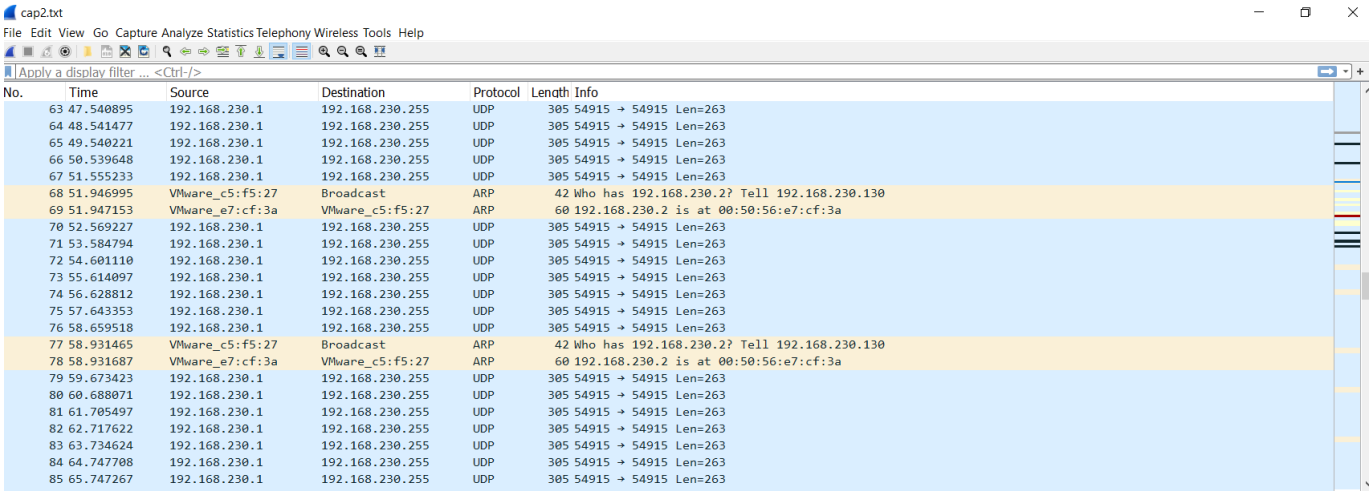
```
11/13/21 12:54:09 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:09 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:09 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:09 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:09 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:09 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:09 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:09 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:09 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:09 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:09 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:10 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:10 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:10 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:10 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:10 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:54:10 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'wpad.localdomain'.
11/13/21 12:55:19 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (1772) requested UDP 192.168.230.254:67
11/13/21 12:55:32 AM [          Diverter] ICMP type 3 code 3 192.168.230.130->192.168.230.254
11/13/21 12:55:32 AM [          Diverter] Modifying ICMP packet (type 3, code 3):
11/13/21 12:55:32 AM [          Diverter]   from: 192.168.230.130->192.168.230.254
11/13/21 12:55:32 AM [          Diverter]   to:   192.168.230.130->192.168.230.130
11/13/21 12:56:19 AM [          Diverter] System (4) requested UDP 192.168.230.2:137
11/13/21 12:56:30 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (1832) requested UDP 192.168.230.130:53
11/13/21 12:56:30 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'settings-win.data.microsoft.co
m'.
11/13/21 12:56:30 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (3288) requested TCP 192.0.2.123:443
11/13/21 12:56:31 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (1832) requested UDP 192.168.230.130:53
11/13/21 12:56:31 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'settings-win.data.microsoft.co
m'.
11/13/21 12:56:31 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (3288) requested TCP 192.0.2.123:443
11/13/21 01:00:20 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (2752) requested TCP 20.198.162.78:443
11/13/21 01:00:24 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (1832) requested UDP 192.168.230.130:53
11/13/21 01:00:24 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'client.wns.windows.com'.
11/13/21 01:00:24 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (2752) requested TCP 192.0.2.123:443
11/13/21 01:00:36 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (1832) requested UDP 192.168.230.130:53
11/13/21 01:00:36 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'client.wns.windows.com'.
11/13/21 01:00:36 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (2752) requested TCP 192.0.2.123:443
11/13/21 01:00:49 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (1832) requested UDP 192.168.230.130:53
11/13/21 01:00:49 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'client.wns.windows.com'.
11/13/21 01:00:49 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (2752) requested TCP 192.0.2.123:443
11/13/21 01:01:00 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (1772) requested UDP 192.168.230.254:67
11/13/21 01:01:00 AM [          Diverter] System (4) requested UDP 192.168.230.2:137
11/13/21 01:01:00 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (5032) requested UDP 239.255.255.250:1900
11/13/21 01:01:06 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (1832) requested UDP 192.168.230.130:53
11/13/21 01:01:06 AM [        DNS Server] Received A request for domain 'client.wns.windows.com'.
11/13/21 01:01:06 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (2752) requested TCP 192.0.2.123:443
11/13/21 01:01:06 AM [          Diverter] svchost.exe (5032) requested UDP 239.255.255.250:1900
11/13/21 01:01:24 AM [          Diverter] System (4) requested UDP 192.168.230.255:138
```

The FakeNet allowed us to see

d) <u>Wireshark</u>: Wireshark is the most popular and commonly used network protocol analyzer in the world. It allows you to view what's going on in your network at a cellular level.

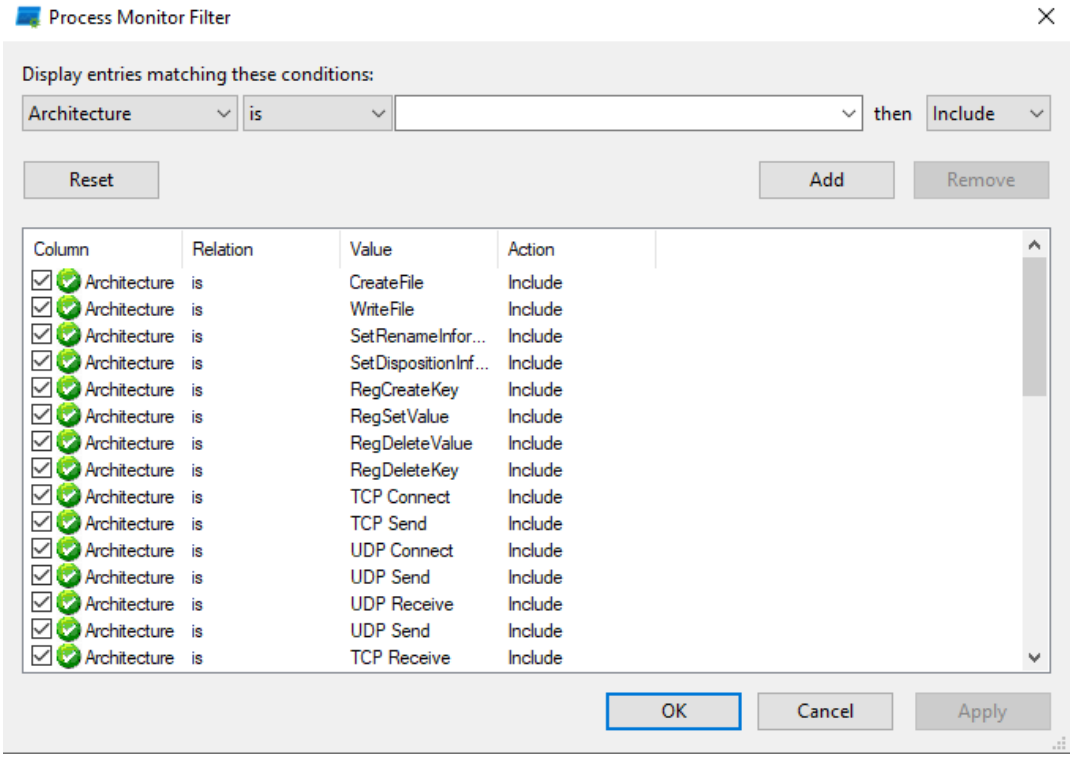
21	19.250839	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263
22	20.266688	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263
23	21.281665	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263
24	21.834632	192.168.230.130	192.168.2.30	TCP	66 [TCP Retransmission] 49717 → 8080 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM=1
25	22.280160	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263
26	23.280270	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263
27	24.278988	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263
28	25.277662	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263
29	26.276781	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263
30	27.277214	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263
31	27.834654	192.168.230.130	192.168.2.30	TCP	66 [TCP Retransmission] 49717 → 8080 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM=1
32	28.275282	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263
33	29.290186	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263
34	30.306177	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263
35	31.319910	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263
36	32.334354	192.168.230.1	192.168.230.255	UDP	305 54915 → 54915 Len=263

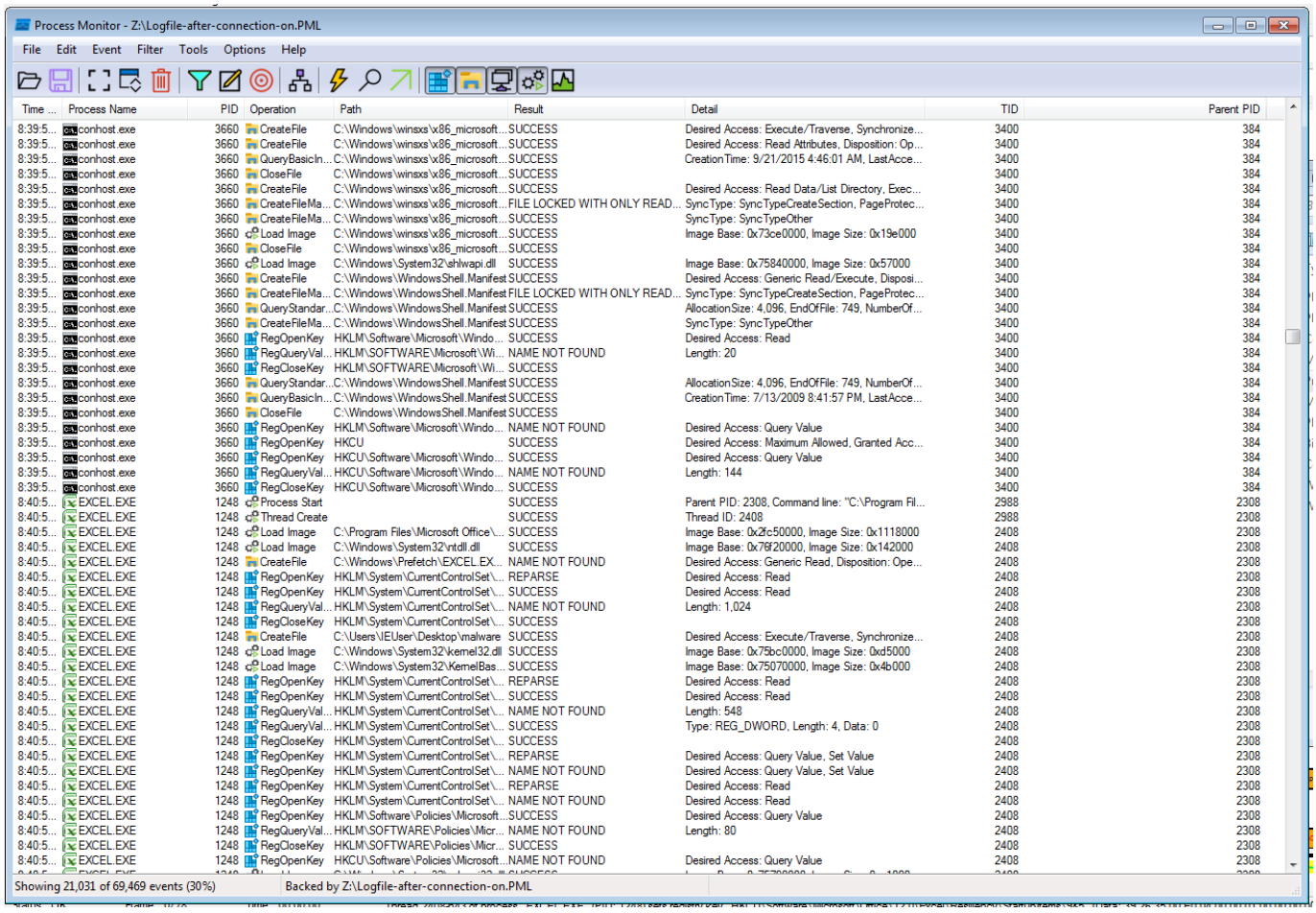




We identified some records as suspicious that are actually coloured. The signal in the red is a Request-Acknowledge Signal that is established with the help of TCP protocol.

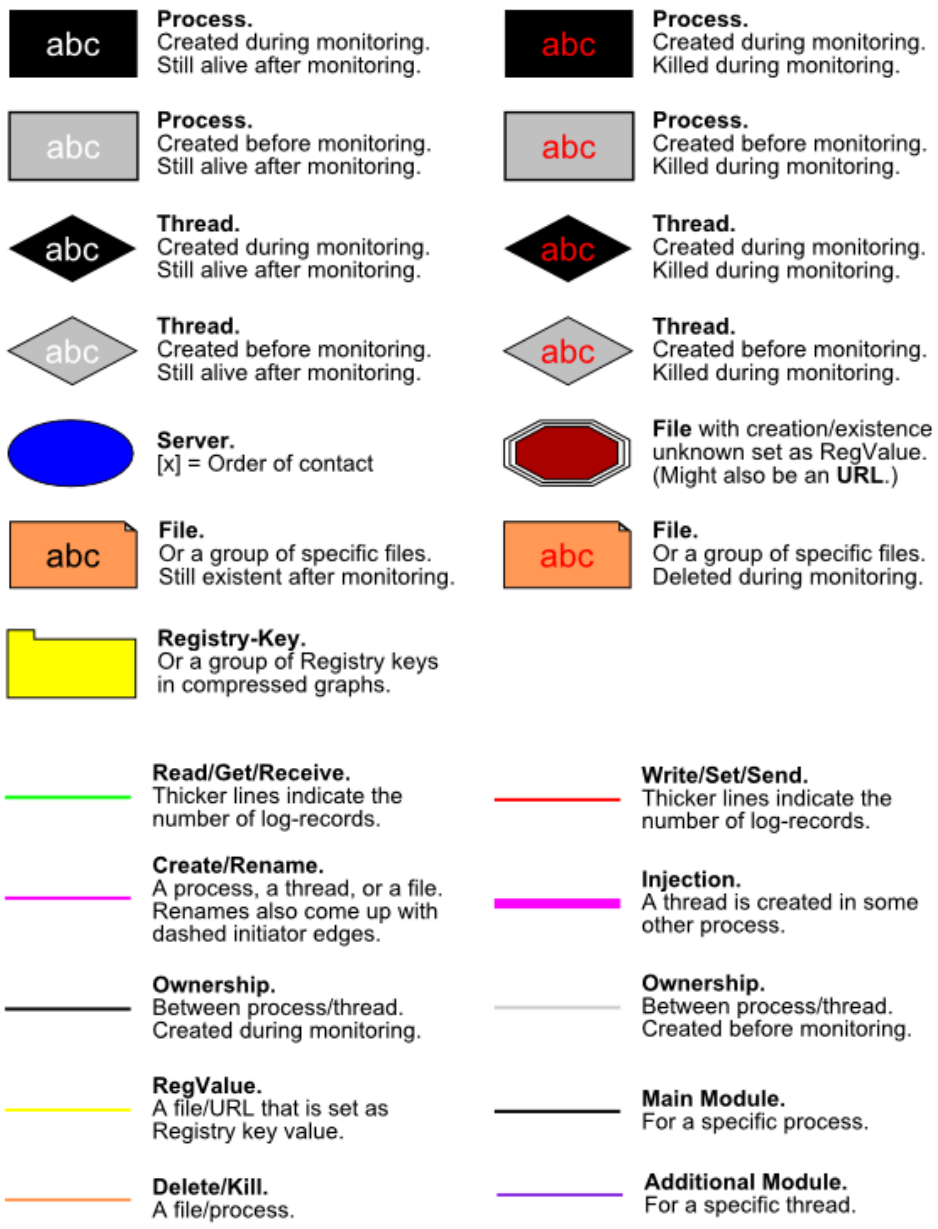
e) **<u>Procmon</u>:** This is one of the most effective programs for monitoring a Windows operating system's file system, Registry, and process/thread activity in real-time. Procmon lists all processes that exist in our running machine that are in very large numbers. It also comes with a facility of filters to separate the processes we desire. In the below illustrations, we filtered processes based on their names - Excel.exe and conhost.exe. And we have an option to export the list of processes and their details as a '.csv' file which we can use in further analysis.





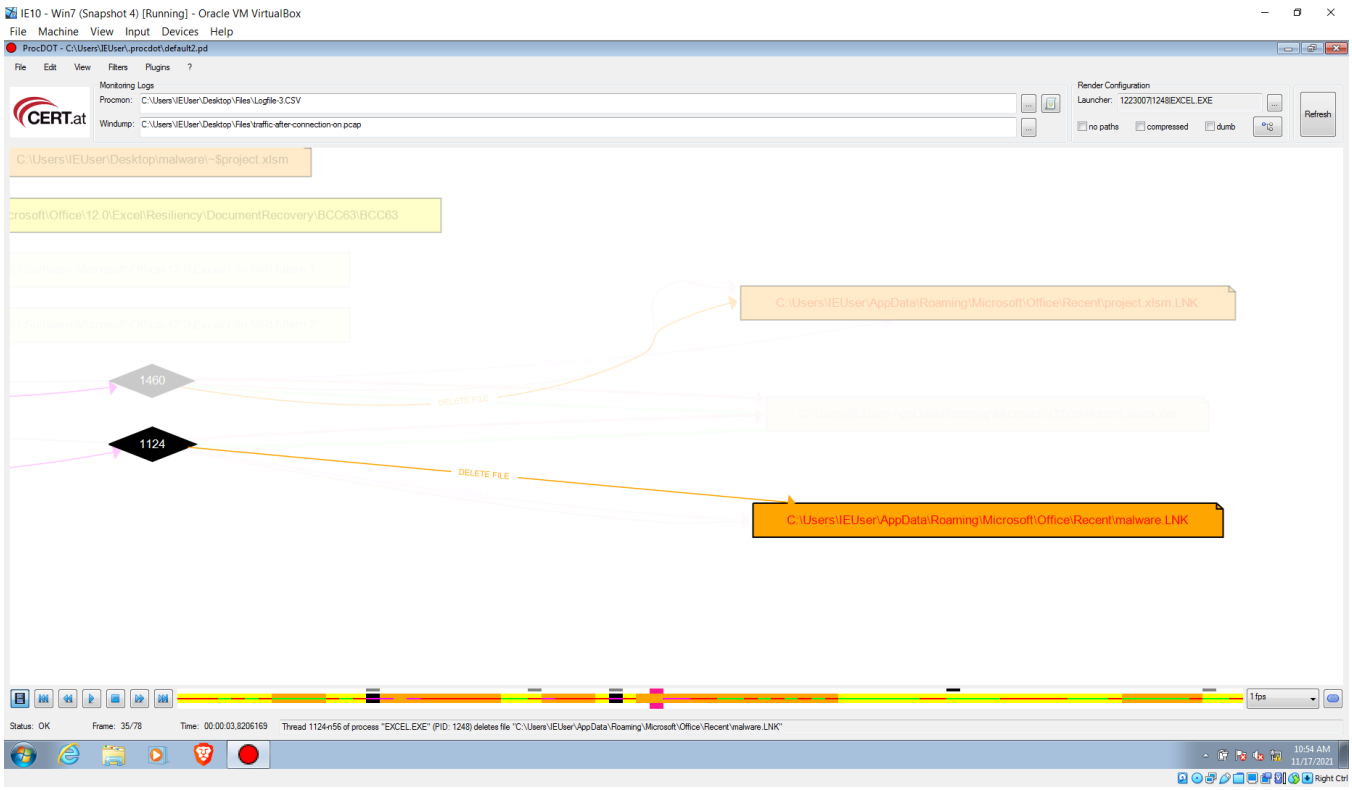
f) **Procdot and Graphviz:**

Graphviz is an independent tool with the ability to generate graphs. ProcDOT is a tool that visualizes system activities in a very convenient way. Procdot depends on Graphviz and Windump to work. We use the csv obtained from the procmon and the pcap file generated by WireShark during the Network analysis and generates a flow chart that shows us the sequence of processes and threads being formed and what tasks are being done. The below illustration is to depict the same.



The meaning of different symbols and lines that we will find in the flow chart.

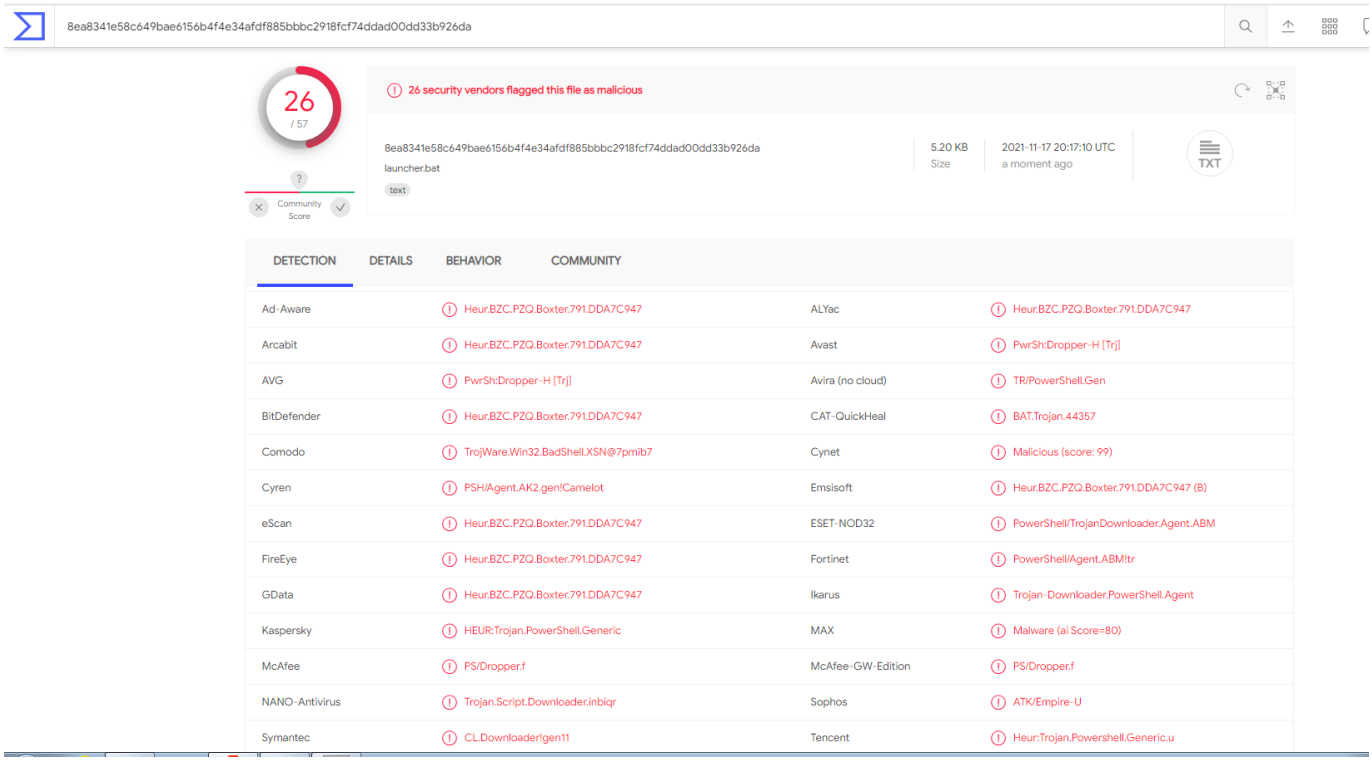

HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Installer\UserData\S-1-5-18\Products\00002119410000000000000000F01FEC\Usage\OfficeOeRDC
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\12.0\Common\Licensing\S-1-12-2000000-1400000000-000000000-0\PIDE
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ZoneMap\UNCAsIntranet
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Internet Settings\ZoneMap\AutoDetect
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\12.0\Excel\Resiliency\StartupItems365
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\12.0\Excel\Resiliency\DocumentRecovery\15E0EH15E0E0
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\12.0\Common\LanguageResources\EnabledLanguages\1033
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Installer\UserData\S-1-5-18\Products\00002119410000000000000000F01FEC\UsageEXCELRes
HKLM\SOFTWARE\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Installer\UserData\S-1-5-18\Products\00002119410000000000000000F01FEC\UsageProductRes
C:\ProgramData\Microsoft\OFFICE\DATA\opa12.dat
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\12.0\Excel\MTT
2408
RENAME FROM
CREATE FILE
C:\Users\IEUser\AppData\Local\Temp\CVR423.tmp
RENAME
C:\Users\IEUser\AppData\Local\Temp\CVR425.tmp
RENAME TO
C:\Users\IEUser\AppData\Local\Temp\77110.dat
CREATE FILE
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\12.0\Common\Licensing\0838C49D8B8B84CD1B191052BF82E736
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\12.0\Excel\Resiliency\DocumentRecovery\B0E78B0E78
CREATE FILE
C:\Users\IEUser\Desktop\malware\~$project.xlsm
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\12.0\Excel\Resiliency\DocumentRecovery\BC63EBC063
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\12.0\Excel\File MRU\Item 1
HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Office\12.0\Excel\File MRU\Item 2
HAS THREAD
CREATE THREAD
Only in PCAP
10.0.2.2
192.168.2.30
[1]
EXCEL.EXE
(PID: 1248)
HAS THREAD
HAS THREAD
1460
1124
CREATE FILE
C:\Users\IEUser\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Office\Recent\project.xlsm.LNK
CREATE FILE
C:\Users\IEUser\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Office\Recent\index.dat
DELETE FILE
CREATE FILE
C:\Users\IEUser\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Office\Recent\malware.LNK


IE10 - Win7 (Snapshot 4) [Running] - Oracle VM VirtualBox
File Machine View Input Devices Help
ProcDOT - C:\Users\IEUser\.procdot\default2.pd
File Edit View Filters Plugins ?
CERT.at
Monitoring Logs
Procmon: C:\Users\IEUser\Desktop\Files\Logfile-3.CSV
Windump: C:\Users\IEUser\Desktop\Files\traffic-after-connection-on.pcap
Render Configuration
Launcher: 1223007\1248\EXCEL.EXE
no paths compressed dumb
Refresh
C:\Users\IEUser\Desktop\malware\~$project.xlsm
1460
1124
DELETE FILE
C:\Users\IEUser\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Office\Recent\project.xlsm.LNK
DELETE FILE
C:\Users\IEUser\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Office\Recent\malware.LNK
1 fps
Status: OK
Frame: 35/78
Time: 00:00:03.8206169
Thread 1124-rx56 of process "EXCEL.EXE" (PID: 1248) deletes file "C:\Users\IEUser\AppData\Roaming\Microsoft\Office\Recent\malware.LNK"
10:54 AM
11/17/2021
Right Ctrl

We find that the malware.LNK file is deleted and created again. LNK files help the attacker's system access the command line without the host executing it. This confirms that project.xlsm and launcher.bat are malicious in nature. They create a system level process called conhost.exe that launches powershell to establish a connection between host and attacker's pc. malware.LNK is also created by project.xlsm so that the attacker gets command line access to the host pc and can exploit the system privileges and then the file is deleted to leave no trace for identification in the registry.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS:

From Static Analysis, we found the below mentioned findings.
We know that there does not exist any malware analysis for the hashes MD5- 8dac2685754e4fb972a2235fb95e2b13. Hence, we uploaded the file directly on to virustotal.com and it labelled it as malicious.



The Strings and HxD could not disclose a lot of information about the functionalities and dependencies of the files because the files were not PE(Portable Executable). They were of format .bat and .xlsm. But one common observation from both tools is that launcher.bat contained reference to Windows Powershell. It was because the Malware would require to run commands to send and receive requests with the attacker's system and enable reverse shell which will bring the control of the system to the attacker. When we analyzed project.xlsm with TriDNeT, we found that 31% of the file actually consisted of Open Packaging Conventions Container, and such a high percentage of OPC is actually in malicious files, as confirmed by Virustotal. So, the project.xlsm and launcher.bat together have no PE

headers. Project.xlsm actually has more than 30% composition of Open Packaging Convention Container. Launcher.bat file is found to contain the oath address to Windows Powershell.
From Dynamic Analysis, we have the below mentioned findings.
Using the Process Hacker, we identify that the launcher.bat actually creates a process conhost.exe (Console Host) which actually tries to launch Windows Powershell in Administrative Mode(Powershell appears twice consecutively in Process Hacker). The Wireshark capture gives us clear indication that the powershell launched in the previous course was actually used to establish connection with a system using TCP protocol. Using the Logfile.csv generated by Procmon and Wireshark capture of format .pcap, we finally generate a flow chart that gives us an animation explaining the sequence of process generation, tasks done and ending. In the animation we found that one of the threads created by process EXCEL.EXE (project.xlsm) has actually deleted and created malware.LNK multiple times in the system. malware.LNK is recognized as a malicious file that can use Command Line without being executed even once. This is how the combination of project.xlsm and launcher.bat together establish connection with the attacker's system and initiate the malicious activities in a target system.

CONCLUSION:

The Malware Analysis of Doppel Paymer Ransomware is successfully conducted by both Static and Dynamic methods. Usage of Oracle Virtual Box and FlareVM facilitated the virtual environment to keep the Malware approach away from the host machine to ensure safety. Snapshots were taken regularly and the snapshots with active malware were deleted after the test to ensure that the ransomware doesn't start communicating with the attacker's system. The malware sample during Dynamic Analysis was found to initiate connection between its system and the attacker's system with the help of command line which can be traced back in Static Analysis as well.

REFERENCE

[1] Michael Sikorski and Andrew Honig, Practical Malware Analysis: The Hands-On Guide to Dissecting Malicious Software (Book)
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[5] Malware Analysis - Part 1: Static Analysis
[6] 5 Places Ransomware and Malware Can Hide That You May Never Check
[7] TCP 3-Way Handshake Process