

# REVIL RANSOMWARE

## Malware Analysis Report

# Executive Summary

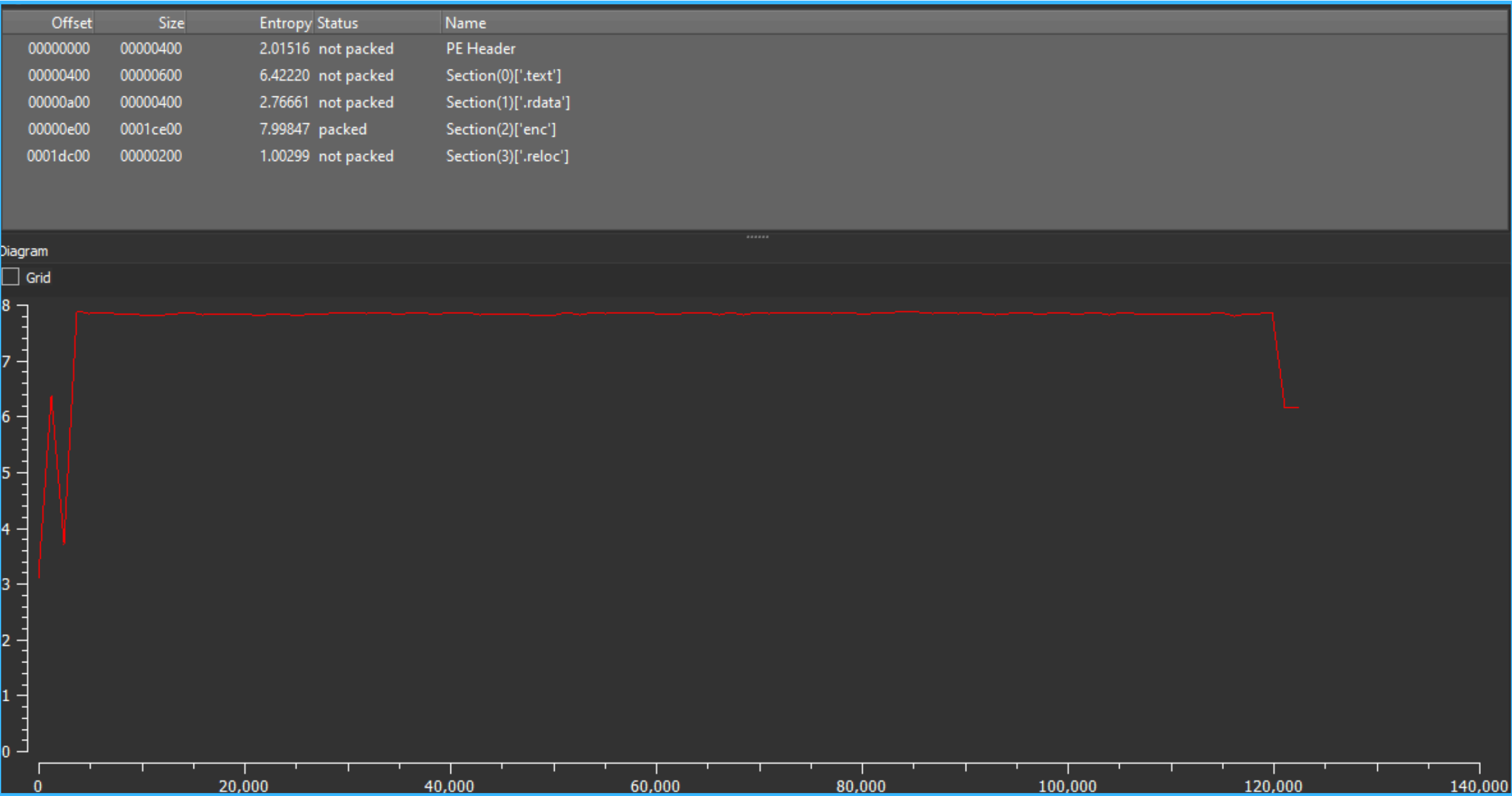
This report examines a sample of the REvil (Sodinokibi) ransomware focusing on its encryption and key generation mechanisms. The ransomware employs AES-CTR and Elliptic-Curve Cryptography (ECC) (Curve25519) to securely encrypt files, making decryption without the attacker's private key impossible.

# Introduction

## Stage 1

MD5: a4331ff805b0a8f2a2892777c224b65e  
SHA256:  
329983dc2a23bd951b24780947cb9a6ae3fb80d5ef546e8538dfd9459b176483

This sample of Revil Ransomware consists of 2 stages. First Stage Decrypts the second stage and execute stage 2.  
When we look into sections of the malware, we can see that there is unique section called 'enc'. This section has 7.99 entropy, which is a common indicator for encrypted data.





We can see the general structure of the executable below, After Entry function initializes command line arguments, it calls Loader function. Loader function first initializes the key for encrypted section 'enc', then decrypts it using RC4 encryption algorithm. Both second stage and first stage of the ransomware doesn't use Wincrypt API calls to encrypt or decrypt data, all encryption algorithms are included in the malwares. This makes it harder to recognize encryption algorithms included in the ransomware. After decrypting stage 2 with rc4, LoadRansomware function is called.

```
1 BOOL __thiscall Loader(_DWORD *this)
2 {
3     int v2; // ecx
4     char buffer[256]; // [esp+4h] [ebp-120h] BYREF
5     char key[32]; // [esp+104h] [ebp-20h] BYREF
6
7     setBufferWithSizeTo0(buffer, 256);
8     qmemcpy(key, "kZlXjn3o373483wb6ne1LIBNWD3KWBK", sizeof(key));
9     RC4_init(v2, key);
10    RC4_crypt(buffer);
11    return LoadRansomware(this) == 0;
12 }
```

We can use the rc4 key to obtain second stage of the ransomware

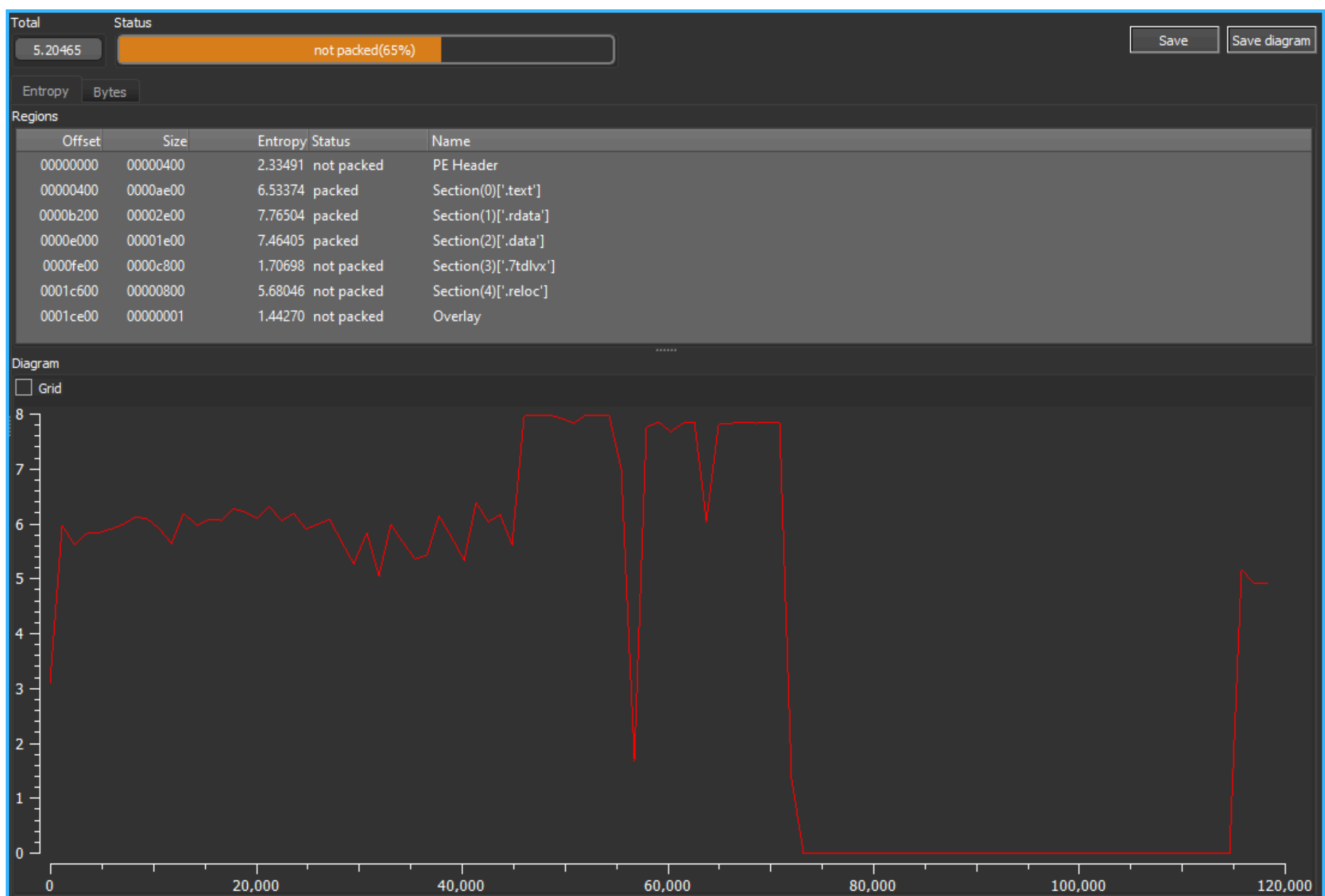
The screenshot displays a decryption tool interface with several tabs: Recipe, Input, and Output. The Recipe tab is active, showing the RC4 key 'kZlXjn3o373483wb6ne1LIBNWD3KWBK' and the input format 'Hex'. The Input tab shows the decrypted output, which is a large block of hex data. The Output tab shows the decrypted output, which is a large block of hex data. The interface includes various settings for the decryption process, such as the key, input format, and output format. The bottom of the interface features a 'BAKE!' button and a status bar.

*LoadRansomware* function first calls *NtAllocateVirtualMemory* and *NtWriteVirtualMemory* functions to allocate and write the decrypted payload, then verifies if the decrypted block is a valid executable program. Finally, it rebases the executable and runs it from its entrypoint.

```
reBaseProgram(v30);
removeImports(v30);
entrypoint = &v30[v8[4]];
if ( (_WORD)v23 )
    ((void (__stdcall *)(char *, int, _DWORD))entrypoint)(entrypoint, 1, 0);
else
    ((void (__stdcall *)(_DWORD, _DWORD, _DWORD, _DWORD))entrypoint)(*a1, a1[1], a1[2], a1[3]);
return 0;
```

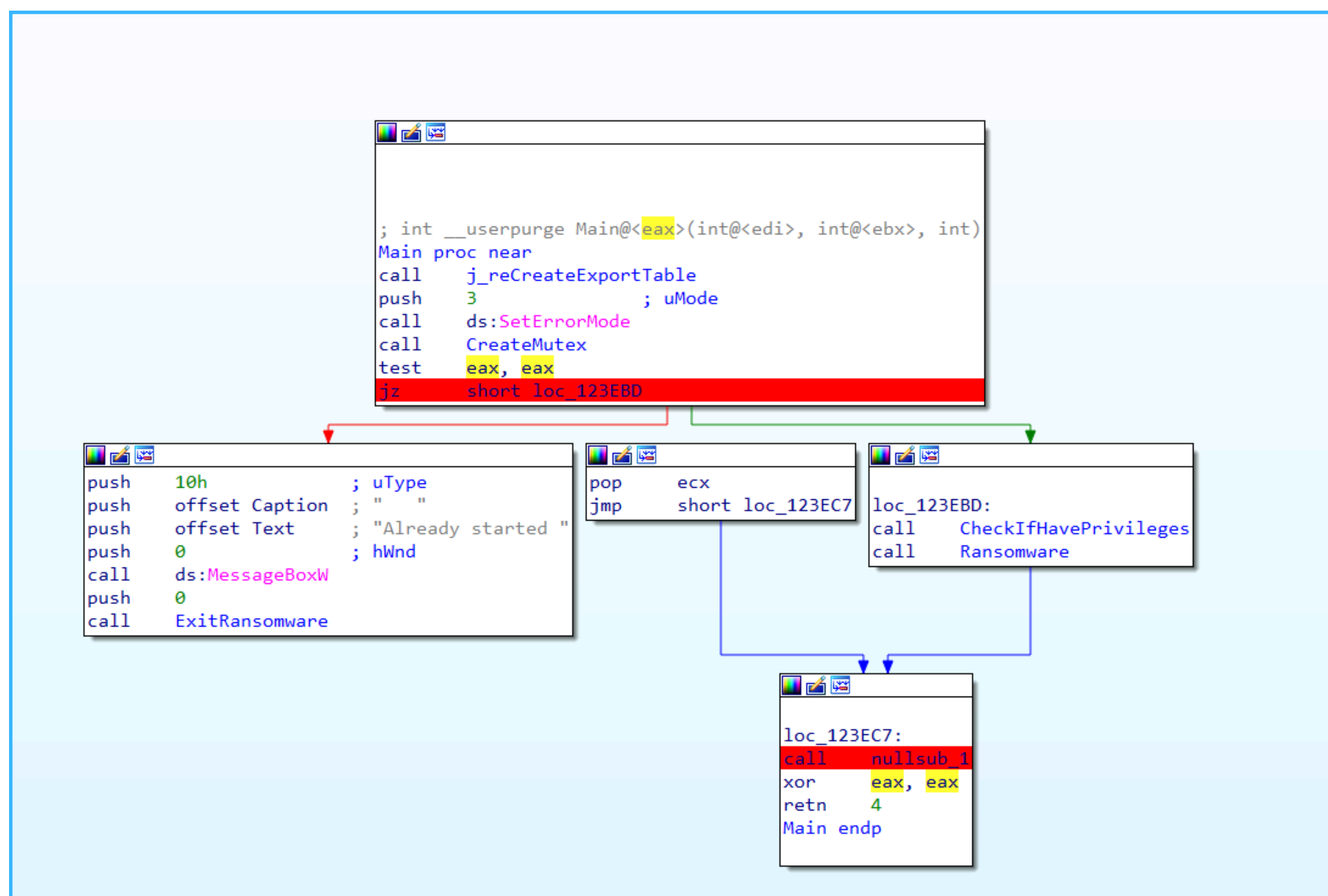
## Stage 2

When we look the second stage, we see *.rdata* and *.data* sections have entropy close to 8 for most of its data, which could indicate most of its data is encrypted. When we investigate the sample further, we confirm that most of this data is encrypted using rc4 encryption algorithm.



## Pre-Encryption

We can see the main execution flow of the ransomware below, first it restores its export table using a technique called api hashing. This technique is used to hide import tables in static analysis by recreating imports on runtime by using hashed addresses of the used functions.



```

char v13; // [esp+1Dh] [ebp-4Fh]
CHAR ProcName[4]; // [esp+20h] [ebp-4Ch] BYREF
char v15; // [esp+34h] [ebp-38h]
CHAR v16[4]; // [esp+38h] [ebp-34h] BYREF
char v17; // [esp+48h] [ebp-24h]
CHAR v18[4]; // [esp+4Ch] [ebp-20h] BYREF
char v19; // [esp+5Ah] [ebp-12h]
int dll_ptr[3]; // [esp+5Ch] [ebp-10h] BYREF
char v21; // [esp+6Ah] [ebp-2h]

for ( i = 0; i < 0x294; i += 4 )
    *(&RtlAdjustPrivilege + i) = apiHashing(*(&RtlAdjustPrivilege + i));
rc4Crypt(poi_array, 2440, 6, 21, a5);
v13 = 0;
rc4Crypt(poi_array, 2409, 6, 14, dll_ptr);
v21 = 0;
rc4Crypt(poi_array, 779, 4, 20, ProcName);
v15 = 0;
rc4Crypt(poi_array, 1911, 13, 16, v16);
v17 = 0;
rc4Crypt(poi_array, 2653, 15, 14, v18);
v19 = 0;
v1 = restoreImports(a5);
CreateStreamOnHGlobal = GetProcAddress(v1, v7);
v2 = restoreImports(dll_ptr);
CoInitializeEx = GetProcAddress(v2, v8);
v3 = restoreImports(ProcName);
CoInitializeSecurity = GetProcAddress(v3, v9);
v4 = restoreImports(v16);
CoCreateInstance = GetProcAddress(v4, v10);
v5 = restoreImports(v18);
result = GetProcAddress(v5, v11);
CoUninitialize = result;
return result;
}

```

After restoring the import table, the ransomware ensures that only one instance is running by creating a mutex with the name: *Global\530D4C9F-32A8-6FCB-DFF6-A5DE7490E287*. It then checks whether it has been executed with administrator privileges on the target system. If the necessary privileges are not present, the ransomware attempts to re-execute itself with elevated (administrator) rights. This process involves a basic UAC (User Account Control) prompt without any bypass techniques, indicating that the threat actor likely already has administrator access on the systems where the ransomware is deployed.

```

17 db      0
18 aGlobal530d4c9f:
18 text    "UTF-16LE", 'Global\530D4C9F-32A8-6FCB-DFF6-A5DE7490E287'
5E db      0
5E db      0

```



# Configuration

After necessary conditions are met, ransomware starts by initializing configuration. Configuration data is stored in the malware as encrypted. Configuration is a Json object, ransomware parses this object to initialize necessary settings, then other settings that is not included in the config is decrypted and initialized.

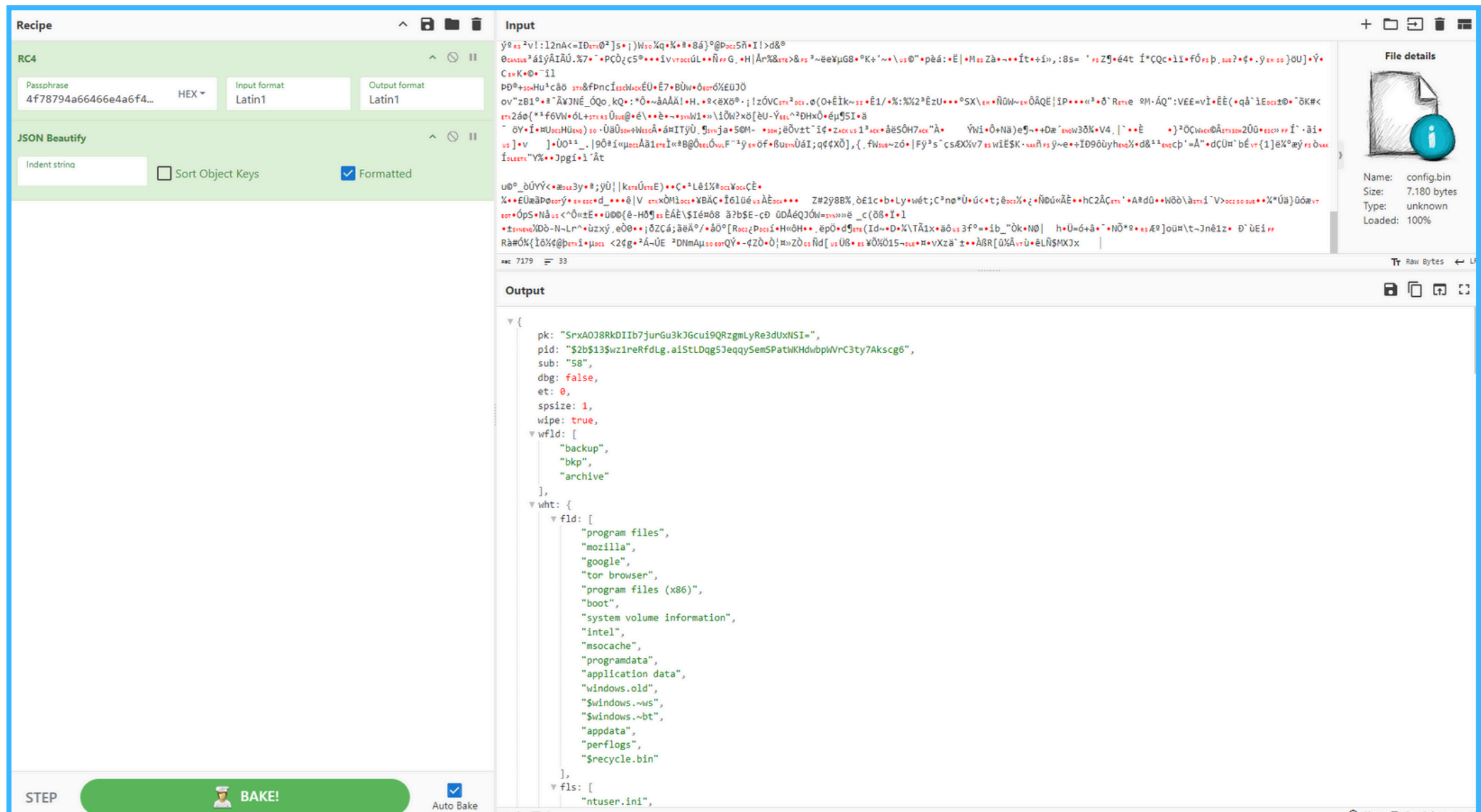
```

51 RansomConfig = RansomwareConfigDecryptor();
52 result = 0;
53 if ( RansomConfig )
54 {
55     v14[0] = 0;
56     v14[1] = 0;
57     v14[4] = 0;
58     v14[5] = 0;
59     v14[2] = createHeapWithSize;
60     v14[3] = FreeHeap;
61     ConfigSize = strlen(RansomConfig);
62     v3 = sub_12AE74(v14, RansomConfig, ConfigSize);
63     if ( v3 )
64     {
65         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 135, 7, 2, &a5);
66         BYTE2(a5) = 0;
67         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 273, 4, 3, &dll_ptr);
68         HIBYTE(dll_ptr) = 0;
69         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 88, 4, 3, &v41);
70         HIBYTE(v41) = 0;
71         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 2489, 7, 3, &v40);
72         HIBYTE(v40) = 0;
73         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 918, 16, 3, &v39);
74         HIBYTE(v39) = 0;
75         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 1699, 5, 3, &v38);
76         HIBYTE(v38) = 0;
77         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 287, 15, 3, &v37);
78         HIBYTE(v37) = 0;
79         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 2906, 12, 3, &v36);
80         HIBYTE(v36) = 0;
81         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 635, 15, 3, &v35);
82         HIBYTE(v35) = 0;
83         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 3027, 15, 5, &v30);
84         v31 = 0;
85         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 187, 11, 5, &v28);
86         v29 = 0;
87         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 1609, 4, 3, &v34);
88         HIBYTE(v34) = 0;
89         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 1767, 9, 2, &v45);
90         BYTE2(v45) = 0;
91         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 32, 16, 6, &v26);
92         v27 = 0;
93         rc4Crypt(&p_poi_array, 363, 5, 3, &v33);
94         HIBYTE(v33) = 0;

```

000008ED ConfigInitialization:53 (1214ED)

Configuration file contains a whitelist folders and files, debug mode setting, service and process list and other settings that is used in ransomware.



While some of these settings meanings are still unknown after analysis, we can see that this configuration contains debug mode switch, folders to be wiped, whitelist for folders and files that would corrupt the OS in case of encryption, extensions that won't be meaningful to encrypt, services and processes to stop to achieve maximum efficiency from encryption process, ransom note and ransomware note format.

```
"pk": "SrxAOJ8RkDIib7jurGu3kJGcui9QRzgmLyRe3dUxNSI=",
"pid": "$2b$13$wz1reRfdLg.aiStLDqg5JeqqySemSPatWKHdwbpWVrC3ty7Akscg6",
"sub": "58",
"dbg": false,
"et": 0,
"spsize": 1,
"wipe": true,
"wflid": [
    "backup",
    "bcp",
    "archive"
],
```

*Debug mode setting, wipe setting, wipe folders*



```
"ext": [
  "dll",
  "scr",
  "icns",
  "ics",
  "nomedia",
  "sys",
  "ps1",
  "hlp",
  "lock",
  "spl",
  "msi",
  "mpa",
  "wpx",
  "ocx",
  "drv",
  "msp",
  "cmd",
  "rtp",
  "key",
  "deskthemepack",
  "bat",
  "ico",
  "mod",
  "prf",
  "diagcfg",
  "cpl",
  "adv",
  "hta",
  "ani",
  "386",
  "bin",
  "diagcab",
  "msu",
  "rom",
  "diagpkg",
  "shs",
  "themepack",
  "theme",
  "com",
  "cab",
  "msc",
  "icl",
  "exe",
  "idx",
  "nls",
  "lnk",
  "msstyles",
  "cur"
```

```
"wht": {
  "fld": [
    "program files",
    "mozilla",
    "google",
    "tor browser",
    "program files (x86)",
    "boot",
    "system volume information",
    "intel",
    "msocache",
    "programdata",
    "application data",
    "windows.old",
    "$windows.~ws",
    "$windows.~bt",
    "appdata",
    "perflogs",
    "$recycle.bin"
  ],
```

```
"fls": [
  "ntuser.ini",
  "autorun.inf",
  "ntldr",
  "iconcache.db",
  "ntuser.dat",
  "boot.ini",
  "bootsect.bak",
  "desktop.ini",
  "ntuser.dat.log",
  "bootfont.bin",
  "thumbs.db"
],
```

*Folders, extensions and files to be whitelisted*

```
"dmn": "",
"net": false,
"exp": false,
"arn": false,
"nbody": "LQAtAC0APQA9AD0AIAIBXAGUAbABjAG8AbQB1AC4AIABBAGcAYQBpAG4ALgAgAD0APQA9AC0ALQAtAA0ACgANAAoAWwAr",
"nname": "{EXT}-README.txt",
"img": "QQBsAGwAIAbvAGYAIAB5AG8AdQByACAAZgBpAGwAZQBzACAAYQByAGUAIAB1AG4AYwByAHkAcAB0AGUAZAahAA0ACgANAA"
```

*Ransomware note, filename format and other settings*

```
"prc": [
  "vsnapvss","EnterpriseClient","firefox","infopath",
  "cvd","tv_x64.exe","VeeamTransportSvc","steam","encsvc",
  "mydesktopservice","outlook","synctime","ocssd","SAP",
  "cvfwd","bengien","vxmon","bedbh","ocomm","ocautoupds",
  "raw_agent_svc","oracle","disk+work","powerpnt","saposcol",
  "sqbcoreservice","sapstartsrv","beserver","saphostexec",
  "dbeng50","isqlplussvc","CVODS","DellSystemDetect",
  "CVMountd","TeamViewer.exe","dbsnmp","thunderbird","mspub",
  "wordpad","visio","benetns","QBCFMonitorService","TeamViewer_Service.exe",
  "tv_w32.exe","QBIDPService","winword","thebat","VeeamDeploymentSvc",
  "avagent","QBDBMgrN","mydesktopqos","xfssvccon","sql","tbirdconfig",
  "CagService","pvlsvr","avsccl","VeeamNFSSvc","onenote","excel",
  "msaccess","agntsvc"
],
```

*Processes to be killed*

```
"svc": [
  "QBCFMonitorService","thebat",
  "dbeng50","winword","dbsnmp",
  "VeeamTransportSvc","disk+work",
  "TeamViewer_Service.exe","firefox",
  "QBIDPService","steam","onenote",
  "CVMountd","cvd","VeeamDeploymentSvc",
  "VeeamNFSSvc","bedbh","mydesktopqos",
  "avsccl","infopath","cvfwd","excel",
  "beserver","powerpnt","mspub",
  "synctime","QBDBMgrN","tv_w32.exe",
  "EnterpriseClient","msaccess","ocssd",
  "mydesktopservice","sqbcoreservice",
  "CVODS","DellSystemDetect","oracle",
  "ocautoupds","wordpad","visio","SAP",
  "bengien","TeamViewer.exe","agntsvc",
  "CagService","avagent","ocomm",
  "outlook","saposcol","xfssvccon",
  "isqlplussvc","pvlsvr","sql",
  "tbirdconfig","vxmon","benetns",
  "tv_x64.exe","encsvc","sapstartsrv",
  "vsnapvss","raw_agent_svc",
  "thunderbird","saphostexec"
],
```

*Services to be stopped*

After initialization is complete, ransomware first check if the language used in the target system is one of the languages in language whitelist. If the language is on this array ransomware exits directly. This gives us an idea about threat actors origin and motives.

Decimal	LangID (Hex)	Language (Locale)
1049	0x0419	Russian (Russia)
1058	0x0422	Ukrainian (Ukraine)
1059	0x0423	Belarusian (Belarus)
1064	0x0428	Tajik (Cyrillic, Tajikistan)
1067	0x042B	Armenian (Armenia)
1068	0x042C	Azeri (Cyrillic, Azerbaijan)
1079	0x0437	Georgian (Georgia)
1087	0x043F	Kazakh (Kazakhstan)
1088	0x0440	Kyrgyz (Kyrgyzstan)
1090	0x0442	Turkmen (Turkmenistan)
1091	0x0443	Uzbek (Latin, Uzbekistan)
1092	0x0444	Tatar (Russia)
2072	0x0818	Romanian (Moldova)

Malware stop services and kill processes found on configuration to make sure when it tries to encrypt files, files opened by these processes and services are accessible to the ransomware. Afterwards, it deletes shadow copies existing on the system to make sure target can't recover their files from copy.

```
}
v0 = ConfigInitalization();
if ( v0 )
{
    if ( !dword_130FF0 && DisarmRansomwareByLanguage() )
        ExitRansomware(0);
    sub_1228C3();
    v6 = 0;
    RtlAdjustPrivilege(20, 1, 0, &v6);
    if ( dword_13100C )
    {
        Thread = CreateThread(0, 0, firstThread, 0, 0, 0);
        CloseHnd(Thread);
        StopServicesOnConfig();
        KillProcessesOnConfig(0, 0, sub_12297D);
        DeleteShadowCopiesUsingPowershell();
    }
    RtlAdjustPrivilege(9, 1, 0, &v6);
    if ( sub_122FE1() )
    {
        if ( !dword_131008 )
            sub_12419B();
        sub_1255AB(0, 1);
        if ( !dword_131008 && dword_130FEC )
            sub_12577D(dword_130F58, 59, 0, sub_1229A4);
    }
}
```



## Encryption Process

Malware starts encryption process by starting a thread for encrpyting the files, then calls a function that creates keys for each file to be encrypted and writes ransom notes to all folders.

```

50     concat_1(v2, L"*");
51     LODWORD(v5) = FindFirstFileW(v2, &FindFileData);
52     hFindFilea = v5;
53     if ( v5 != -1 )
54     {
55         do
56         {
57             if ( sub_125AA1(FindFileData.cFileName, ".")
58                 && sub_125AA1(FindFileData.cFileName, L"..")
59                 && (FindFileData.dwFileAttributes & 0x400) == 0 )
60             {
61                 concat_0(&v2[v12], FindFileData.cFileName);
62                 if ( (FindFileData.dwFileAttributes & 0x10) != 0 )
63                 {
64                     concat_1(v2, L"\\");
65                     if ( (hFindFile)[1](v2, FindFileData.cFileName) )
66                     {
67                         sub_12705D(&v13, v2);
68                         *(hFindFile + 3) += (hFindFile[10])(hFindFile[3], v2, FindFileData.cFileName);
69                     }
70                 }
71                 else
72                 {
73                     nFileSizeLow = FindFileData.nFileSizeLow;
74                     nFileSizeHigh = FindFileData.nFileSizeHigh;
75                     if ( (hFindFile[2])(v2, FindFileData.cFileName, FindFileData.nFileSizeLow, FindFileData.n
76                         *(hFindFile + 4) += (hFindFile[11])(hFindFile[4], v2, FindFileData.cFileName, nFileSize
77                     )
78                 }
79             }
80             while ( !*hFindFile && FindNextFileW(hFindFilea, &FindFileData) );
81             LODWORD(v5) = FindClose(hFindFilea);
82             goto LABEL_20;
83         }
84     }
85     while ( v4 )
86     {
87         v8 = v4;
88         v4 = *(v4 + 4);
89         FreeHeap(*v8);
90         LODWORD(v5) = FreeHeap(v8);
91     }
92     return v5;
93 }

```

0000632A findFilesToEncrypt:74 (126F2A)

Key generation process can be seen below: Key generation algorithm makes use of Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) algorithm in counter mode and Elliptic curve cryptography with 25519 donna implementation. ECC functions used in the ransomware matches with the code from "<https://github.com/agl/curve25519-donna>" repository, we can assume threat actor copied the code from this repository to reduce of making mistakes in implementation of the encryption algorithm.

```

1 void __cdecl fileEncryptionKeyGenerationModule(encryptCtx *encryptCtx)
2 {
3     int k[8]; // [esp+Ch] [ebp-40h] BYREF
4     char secret[32]; // [esp+2Ch] [ebp-20h] BYREF
5
6     qmemcpy(encryptCtx->data1, data1, sizeof(encryptCtx->data1));
7     qmemcpy(encryptCtx->data2, data2, sizeof(encryptCtx->data2));
8     calculatePublicKeyEcc(secret, encryptCtx->eccPubKey);
9     keyCreator_(secret, data3, k);
10    nullifyBuffer(secret, 32);
11    salsa20KeySetup(encryptCtx[1].unkBlock, k, 256);
12    nullifyBuffer(k, 32);
13    RandomCreatorWithSize(encryptCtx->salsaNonce, 8);
14    Salsa20ivSetup(encryptCtx[1].unkBlock, encryptCtx->salsaNonce);
15    encryptCtx->eccCrc32Checksum = hashingAlgorithm(0, encryptCtx->eccPubKey, 32);
16    encryptCtx->size1 = unk1;
17    encryptCtx->size2 = unk2;
18    encryptCtx->unk1 = 0;
19    Salsa20Encrypt_Decrypt(encryptCtx[1].unkBlock, &encryptCtx->unk1, &encryptCtx->unk1, 4u);
20 }

```

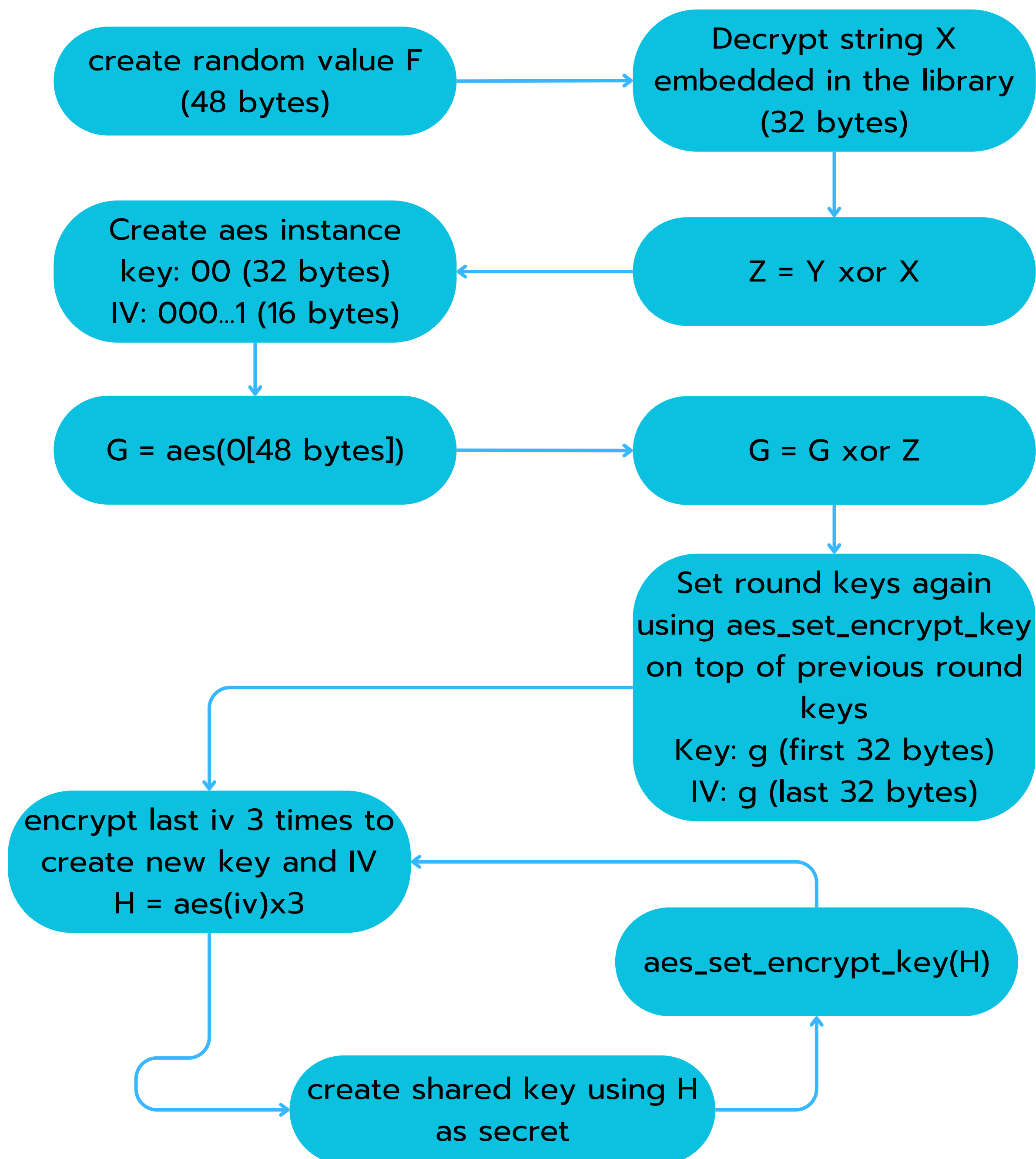
To create encryption keys, Ransomware uses aes in an unconventional way. Ransomware creates a random using an embedded random generator, and if they fail, it uses wincrypt api to generate random keys.

```

1 int __cdecl RandomCreatorWithSize(unsigned int *ptrAddr, int size)
2 {
3     int result; // eax
4     BYTE v3[48]; // [esp+4h] [ebp-30h] BYREF
5
6     if ( !startCheck )
7     {
8         result = InitalizeAes();
9         if ( !result )
10            return result;
11        getCritObj2(&critObj1);
12        startCheck = 1;
13    }
14    getCritObj(&critObj1);
15    if ( aesCtr > 0x1000000 && (!GetRandomNumber(v3, 0x30u) || !createIvForAesUsingRandoms(&AesRounds, v3, 48, 0, 0))
16        || !ivCreate(&AesRounds, ptrAddr, size) )
17    {
18        return 0;
19    }
20    LeaveCritObj(&critObj1);
21    return 1;
22 }

```

Ransomware does the following operations to generate key:

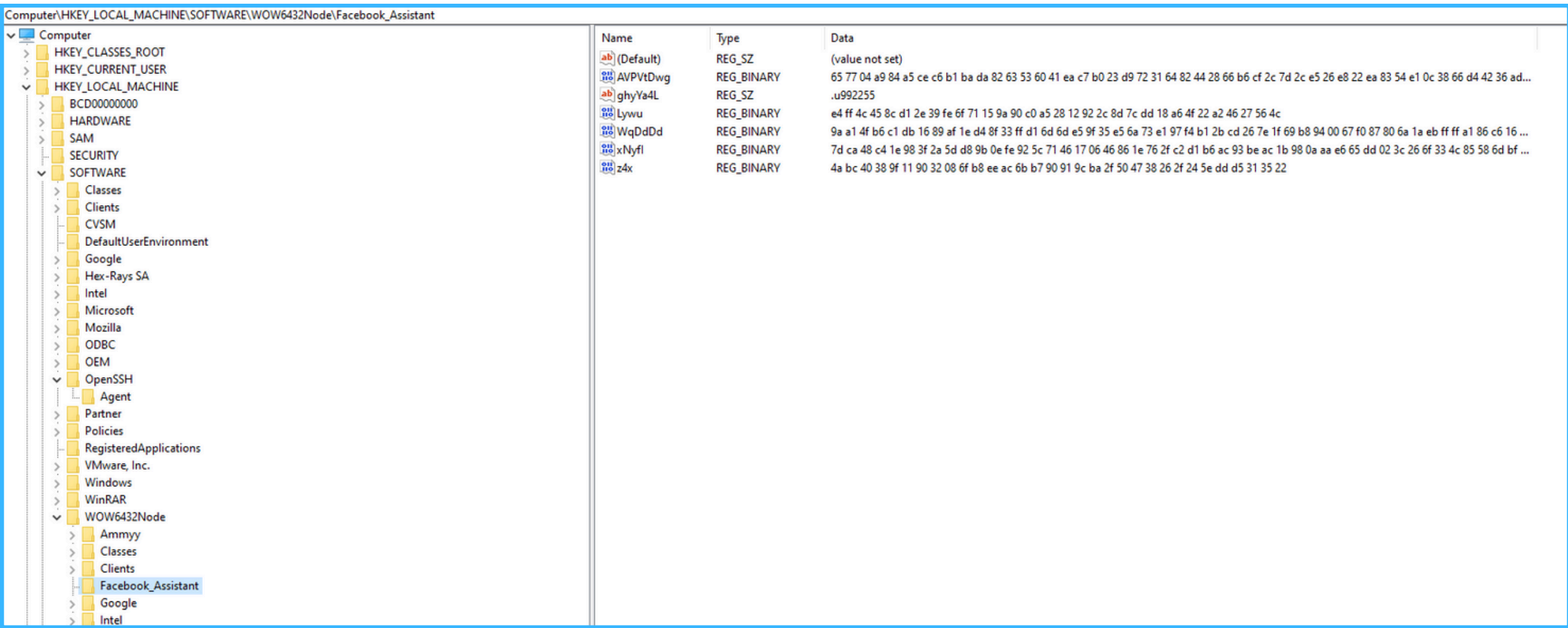


This process is followed on key creation for each file. After random value is created, this value is used as secret for *ECC 25519 donna* impletation. A Shared key is created using ECC and hashed with *sha3-256* before using for *salsa20* encryption. This same process also used to create the nonce for *salsa20*.

After Key generation for a file is completed, files are encrypted using a thread that accesses files asynchronously to increase encryption speed. To encrypt files, ransomware uses *salsa20* encryption algorithm with the key and nonce created before. Some parts of the encryption context is written to end of encrypted files to provide necessary information for decryption. This information contains, shared key that is generated secret used to encrypt the file, *crc32* hash of this shared key, other information that is assumed to be used in decryption process and nonce for *salsa20* encryption.

```
switch ( v2[17].Internal )
{
    case 1u:
        readFileAndPostIO(a1, v2, 2);
        break;
    case 2u:
        v3 = 1;
        if ( unk1 == 1 )
            v3 = 3;
        salsaAndWrite(v2, v6, v3);
        break;
    case 3u:
        WriteToFile_Thread(v2, 4u);
        break;
    case 4u:
        concatAndMove_thread(a1, v2);
        break;
}
```

Part of the encryption information embedded in files are also written to *HKLM\SOFTWARE\WOW6432Node\Facebook\_Assistant* key on 64-bit systems. This information is same in all encrypted files.





### Conclusion

Ransomware uses ECC to keep secret hidden on the endpoint and nullifies any used secrets from the memory after key generation is complete. This key is a public key of an asymmetric encryption algorithm, allowing only holder of the private key to decrypt the secret that is used to generate file encryption key. Usage of the AES in unconventional way reduces the chances of recreation of encryption keys by following same procedures, considering all encryption keys are created in a nested structure. At this moment it does not seem possible to decrypt files without the mentioned private key.