Task02 - Windows

1) where does it connect to?

 We use API Monitor to check. The binary tries to connect to http://maybe.suspicious.to/secondstage. It gets the URL components with this API call:



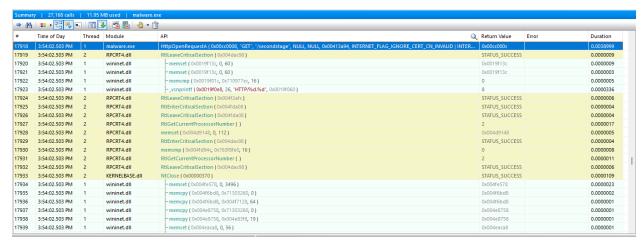
It initializes Internet operations with a Mozilla user-agent:



 It uses the returned handle (0x00cc0004) to make an HTTP connection to the malicious website. The connection is identified by return 0x00cc0008:



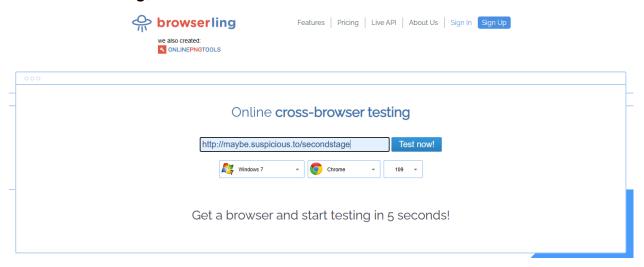
 It opens a GET request (0x00cc000c) on that connection (0x00cc0008) for the /secondstage path:

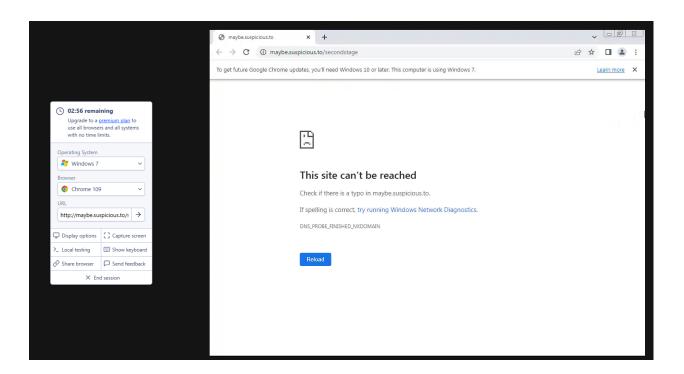


 It sends the GET request (0x00cc000c) with an "Accept-Language: en-us" Http header.



- According to the Return and Error values, the request fails. Checking on **browserling**, it looks like the website is down:





- According to VirusTotal, it generated this network traffic at some point:

Network Communication ①

HTTP Requests

+ http://maybe.suspicious.to/secondstage

DNS Resolutions

+ maybe.suspicious.to

IP Traffic

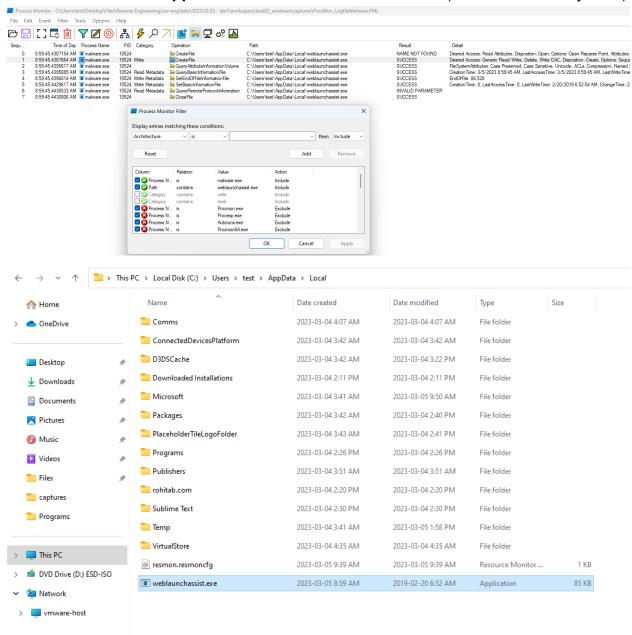
13.107.4.50:80 (TCP)

<MACHINE_DNS_SERVER>:53 (UDP)

a83f:8110:5300:6500:4300:6800:6100:6e00:53 (UDP)

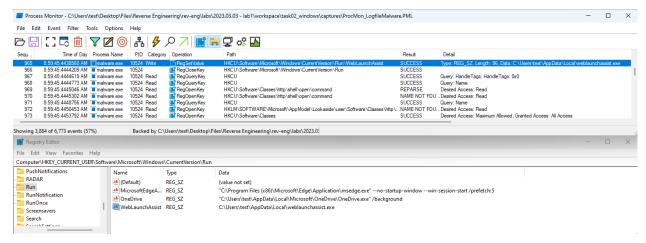
2) what registry keys does it access and why?

We use Process Monitor to check. The malware copies itself to
 "C:\Users\test\AppData\Local\weblaunchassist.exe" (if it doesn't already exist)



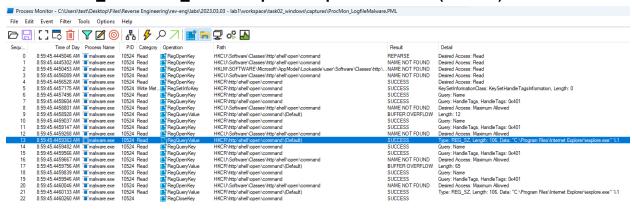
 It writes to the following registry key to make Windows start it automatically when the user logs on and thus ensure that it persists:

HKCU\Software\Microsoft\Windows\CurrentVersion\Run\WebLaunchAssist

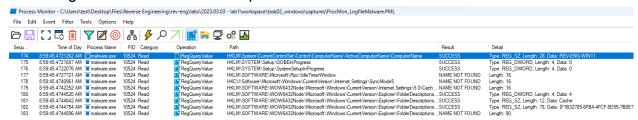


- It gets the the Default Web Browser:

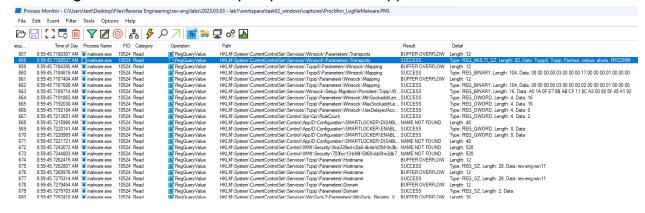
HKEY CLASSES ROOT\http\shell\open\command\(Default)



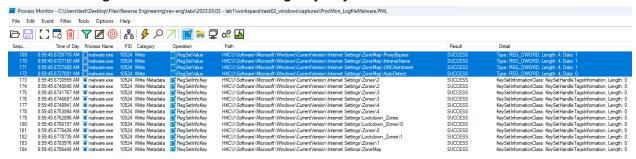
It gets the name of the computer:



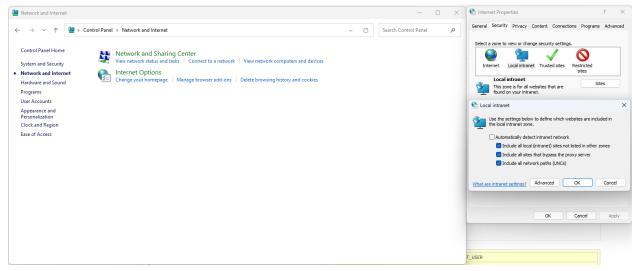
It gets the installed Transport protocols that support Windows sockets:



- It changes the value of these Registry keys:



Which seem to regulate which locations belong to the intranet and they correspond to these Control Panel settings:



3) Bonus task

We notice that this malware creates a Mutex named "WEBLAUNCHASSIST_MUTEX" with the CreateMutexA() function and then checks the result with GetLastError(). According to the CreateMutexA() docs, GetLastError() can be used to check for ERROR_ALREADY_EXISTS, which may mean that the malware would stop if the mutex already exists.



I created a **vaccine.cpp** program which creates a mutex with that name and then sleeps forever. This way, the mutex remains created and acquired by this process.

```
vaccine.cpp X
                       int main() {
                                     const char * const malwareMutexName = "WEBLAUNCHASSIST_MUTEX";
                                     HANDLE mutexHandle = CreateMutexA(NULL, TRUE, malwareMutexName);
                                     if (mutexHandle == NULL) {
                                                  printf("CreateMutexA failed. Last error: %i\n", (int)GetLastError());
                                    printf("Mutex %s is created\n", malwareMutexName); fflush(stdout);
                                                  printf("Mutex %s already exists\n", malwareMutexName); fflush(stdout);
                                                  CloseHandle(mutexHandle);
                                                  return 0:
                                     printf("New mutex. Sleeping...\n"); fflush(stdout);
                                                Sleep(2 * 1000);
                                     return 0;
 PROBLEMS OUTPUT DEBUG CONSOLE TERMINAL
  [Running] \ cd \ "c:\Users\test\Desktop\Files\Reverse \ Engineering\rev-eng\labs\2023.03.03 - lab1\workspace\task02\_windows\" \& g++ \ vaccine.cpp \ labs\2023.03.03 - lab1\workspace\task02\_windows\" & g++ \ vaccine.cpp \ labs\2023.03 - lab1\labs\2023.03 - lab1
Mutex WEBLAUNCHASSIST_MUTEX is created
 New mutex. Sleeping...
```

We run the malware again and we see that it does indeed stop immediately since the mutex already exists (on the false assumption that the malware is already running on the system).

	A) :: · [2] -						
•	Time of Day	Thread	Module	API Q	Return Value	Error	
234	2:49:16.665 PM	1	malware.exe	InterlockedDecrement (0x031933c4)	0		
3235	2:49:16.665 PM	1	malware.exe	InterlockedIncrement (0x031933c4)	1		
3236	2:49:16.665 PM	1	malware.exe	InitializeCriticalSection (0x031a1b48)			
3237	2:49:16.665 PM	1	malware.exe	InitializeCriticalSection (0x031a1b70)			
3238	2:49:16.665 PM	1	malware.exe	InitializeCriticalSection (0x031a1b98)			
3239	2:49:16.665 PM	1	malware.exe	CreateMutexA (NULL, FALSE, "WEBLAUNCHASSIST_MUTEX")	0x00000238		
3240	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNELBASE.dll	"RtlInitAnsiStringEx (0x0019f6a4, "WEBLAUNCHASSIST_MUTEX")	STATUS_SUCCESS		
3241	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNELBASE.dll	"RtlAnsiStringToUnicodeString (0x0019f6b8, 0x0019f6a4, TRUE)	STATUS_SUCCESS		
3242	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNELBASE.dll	"RtlInitUnicodeString (0x0019f678, "WEBLAUNCHASSIST_MUTEX")			
3243	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNELBASE.dll	"NtCreateMutant (0x00197674, MUTANT_ALL_ACCESS, 0x00197680, FALSE)	STATUS_OBJECT_NAME_EXISTS	0x40000000 = {Object Exists} An attempt was made to create an object and the object name already existe	
3244	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNELBASE.dII	"RtISetLastWin32Error (ERROR_ALREADY_EXISTS)			
3245	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNELBASE.dll	RtIFreeUnicodeString (0x0019f6b8)			
3246	2:49:16.665 PM	1	malware.exe	GetLastError ()	ERROR_ALREADY_EXISTS		
3247	2:49:16.665 PM	1	malware.exe	ExitProcess (0)			
3248	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNEL32.DLL	RtIExitUserProcess (STATUS_SUCCESS)			
3249	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNELBASE.dll	RtlInitUnicodeString (0x0019f464, "kernel32.dll")			
3250	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNELBASE.dll	LdrGetDIIHandle (NULL, NULL, 0x0019f464, 0x0019f46c)	STATUS_SUCCESS		
3251	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNELBASE.dll	RtlInitUnicodeString (0x0019f468, "kernelbase.dll")			
3252	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNELBASE.dll	LdrGetDIIHandle (NULL, NULL, 0x0019f468, 0x0019f470)	STATUS_SUCCESS		
3253	2:49:16.665 PM	1	ntdll.dll	DIIMain (0x74670000, DLL_PROCESS_DETACH, 0x000000001)	TRUE		
3254	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNELBASE.dll	-RtIRunOnceBeginInitialize (0x746e303c, RTL_RUN_ONCE_CHECK	STATUS_SUCCESS		
3255	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNELBASE.dll	RtlInitUnicodeString (0x0019f15c, "ntdll.dll")			
3256	2:49:16.665 PM	1	KERNELBASE.dll	-LdrGetDilHandle (NULL, NULL, 0x0019f15c, 0x0019f164)	STATUS_SUCCESS		